



# Islamabad POST

Friday, August 30, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Govt to introduce new incentives for foreign investors**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Ji's Hafiz criticises government**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Hilal-i-Imtiaz conferred on Arshad Nadeem**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Enemies seek to undermine CPEC

# PM Shehbaz Sharif reiterates resolve to eliminate terrorism

"Blood of our martyrs will not go in vain," says prime minister at high-level security huddle in provincial capital

DNA

QUETTA: In response to a series of horrific attacks in Balochistan that resulted in over 50 deaths, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the provincial capital on Thursday and vowed to completely eradicate terrorism from the province at all costs, saying the "blood of martyrs will not go in vain". The premier made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting of the National Action Plan's provincial apex committee. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhail, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Saffraz Bugti, security czar Mohsin Naqvi, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Jam Kamal, corps commander, and other armed and civilian officials were in attendance. The prime minister's visit to Quetta comes against the backdrop of recent bloodshed in the country's largest province by land wherein over 50 people, including 14 security personnel, were martyred in different terrorist attacks in Balochistan. In one of the deadliest attacks on Monday, at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Rarasham area of Balochistan's Musakhel. Separately, at least 10 people, including police and Balochistan Levies personnel, were martyred in a gun attack in Kalat.

Continued on Page 06

## Faizabad sit-in commission ordered to vacate home ministry's office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The home ministry has ordered the Faizabad Dharna Commission to vacate ministry's office, ARY News reported. According to the notification issued by the interior secretary, the commission was given the office of parliamentary secretary in room 411 of the S-block. However, the commission now ordered to immediately vacate the office and shift their belongings to another place. Its important to note here that on November 8, 2017, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) organised a sit-in at Faizabad against the amendments in the Election Bill 2017, changing the word

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Paccai met with the Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki. The Saudi ambassador lauded services of the outgoing ambassador and wished him best of luck with his new role in the OIC. - DNA

## Palestine ambassador leaves Pakistan with a heavy heart



DNA

ISLAMABAD: As my tenure as the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan comes to an end, I am filled with deep emotions as I reflect on the time I have spent in this beautiful and resilient country. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in a nation that has shown unwavering support and solidarity with the Palestinian cause, and I leave with a heart full of gratitude and respect for the people of Pakistan. Over the years, I have witnessed the strong bond of friendship and brotherhood that exists between our two nations. The support of the Pakistani people, their government, and the media in advocating for the rights and dignity of the

Continued on Page 06

## Blames establishment for security issues

# Imran fears PM may become a missing person if 'Plan B' is enacted

PTI founder denies claims that he had instructed any hidden PTI member to come out into the open

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Imran Khan, the incarcerated founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has warned that if their [establishment's] 'Plan B' is implemented, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will become a 'missing person' the moment he steps down from office. During an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail on Thursday, Khan denied claims that he had instructed any hidden PTI member to come out into the open. "I categorically deny this news," he said. Khan asserted that his party is not afraid of prisons and accused authorities of kidnapping PTI members. He alleged that Deputy Superintendent of Jail Akram had been abducted, adding that the police claim he had eloped with a girl. "Everyone knows who kidnapped Akram," he stated. "If my 'Plan B' comes into play, Shehbaz Sharif will also become a missing person the moment he leaves office." The former prime minister also criticised conflicting narratives on terrorism, saying, "They first claimed that resettlement after negotiations brought terrorism back. Now, [Interior Minister] Mohsin Naqvi says cross-border terrorism is happening. This means they are lying." Khan emphasised the need for Afghan

Continued on Page 06

## KP govt to establish May 9 inquiry commission

Provincial govt has chosen not to request a judicial inquiry anymore

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to set up an inquiry commission to investigate the events of May 9. Sources indicated that the provincial government had chosen not to request a judicial inquiry from the high court anymore. Instead, it has opted to establish its own inquiry commission. This decision would be finalised on approval from Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Provincial Law Minister Advocate Aftab Alam stated that it was not essential to involve judges for the investigation of the May 9 events. He noted that although they initially preferred a judicial inquiry due to full confidence in the judiciary, they would proceed with setting up the commission themselves if the judiciary declined to probe the matter.

## Briefs

### CJCSC discusses military coop with Oman

He held separate meetings with Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Chief of Staff and others

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza discussed military cooperation with Omani leadership as he is paying an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday. During his visit to Oman, the CJCSC held separate meetings with Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs Sayyid Shahab bin Tariq bin Taimur Al-Said, Minister of the Royal Office General Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Namani, Chief of Staff Sultan Armed Forces (COSSAF) Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi, Services Chiefs and Chairman of Strategic and Defense Academy.

### FS meets Adviser BD MOFA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the sidelines of the 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Yaounde, Cameroon, Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi today met with Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Foreign Secretary underscored the significance attached by Pakistan to its brotherly relations with Bangladesh. He underlined the deep-rooted goodwill between the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh and expressed Pakistan's desire to advance bilateral engagement and dialogue. Advisor Md. Touhid Hossain briefed the Foreign Secretary on the latest political developments in Bangladesh.

## 'No talks with TTP' Pakistan invites Indian PM Modi to SCO summit

Islamabad received some confirmations for SCO moot to be held in Islamabad on Oct 15-16, says spox

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extended invitations to all heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the upcoming Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said on Thursday. Baloch, addressing a weekly news briefing in the federal capital, said that Islamabad has also received some confirmations for the upcoming SCO moot to be hosted by Pakistan on October 15-16. Responding to a question, Baloch said Pakistan does not have trade relations with India.

Continued on Page 06

## BLA involved in missing persons' propaganda

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An attempt by terrorist organisation Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) to malign state institutions has been exposed as terrorists are involved in missing persons' controversy. Tayyab Baloch alias Ilyas Lala, son of Maula Bakhs, a resident of Noshki, allegedly went missing and an FIR was

Continued on Page 06

# PHF slaps lifetime ban on hockey Players who sought asylum in Europe

PHF Secretary General Rana Mujahid further said that the PHF would request the Pakistan government to cancel passports of these players; Hockey enthusiasts have urged the Prime Minister of Pakistan to urgently address the state of the sport, warning that the future of the national game is at risk if immediate action is not taken

ANSAR M. BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has slapped a lifetime ban on hockey players who sought asylum in Europe. According to the notification issued by Secretary General of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), Rana Mujahid in which lifetime ban has been slapped on the following three players and one Physiotherapist. 1) Mr. Waqas Mehmood (Physiotherapist) - Lahore 2) Mr. Muhammad Murtaza Yaqoob (Player) - WAPDA 3) Mr. Abdul Rehman (Player) - WAPDA 4) Mr. Ahtisham Aslam (Player) - ZTBL

Rana Mujahid said in the notification that 'It is learnt that you are playing the leagues in foreign countries without any information/intimation to Pakistan Hockey Federation. You have violated all norms of the discipline and mistrusted the PHF. The 57th meeting of PHF Congress strongly recommended to President PHF and after the approval of President PHF, LIFE BAN is imposed on above mentioned official and players from playing hockey and other hockey affairs with immediate effect'. Rana Mujahid further said that the PHF would request the Pakistan government to cancel passports of these players, who have not only betrayed the trust of the country but also the trust of the embassies who issued visas to them. It may be mentioned here that this newspaper 'ISLAMABAD POST' and 'DNA News Agency' had published this BREAKING news on August 28, 2024, regarding his matter, on its front page. According to Islamabad POST exclusive report, three key players had reportedly sought political asylum in

## Three key players of Pakistan national hockey team looking for political asylum in Europe

The team's goalkeeper, Akmal, declined to be part of the squad selected for the 2024 Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, opting instead to play in an Australian league; Another key player, drag-flicker Abu Bakar, is also playing in an Australian league and did not attend the training camp; Alternate drag flicker Arbaz has declined to join the team, despite attending the camp; team's physio goes missing in Poland

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a troubling turn of events for Pakistan's national hockey team, three key players have reportedly sought political asylum in Malta. The team's goalkeeper, Akmal, de-



Rehman Arbaz

declined to be part of the squad selected for the 2024 Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, opting instead to play in an Australian league. He remains in Australia and will therefore be unavailable for the upcoming Asian Championship, which starts on September 8 in China. Another key player, drag-flicker and vice-captain of the team Abu Bakar, is also playing in an Australian league and did not attend the training camp for the China tour. Alternate drag flicker Arbaz declined to join the team, despite attending the camp regularly. Sources reveal that on the final day of the camp, Arbaz informed the management that he would not be participating as a form of protest, claiming he was deliberately overlooked for the Azlan Shah and National Cup tournaments. Some sources believe Arbaz is not going with the team because he is heading abroad to play in league. Hockey enthusiasts have urged the Prime Minister of Pakistan to urgently address the state of the sport, warning that the future of the national game is at risk if immediate action is not taken.



Rehman Arbaz

on believe Arbaz is not going with the team because he is heading abroad to play in league. Hockey enthusiasts have urged the Prime Minister of Pakistan to urgently address the state of the sport, warning that the future of the national game is at risk if immediate action is not taken.

## Denmark refuses to give visa to Pakistani boxer

According to Wasim, the Danish embassy refused to issue the visa on the grounds that he might not return to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a recent development, the Embassy of Denmark in Islamabad has denied a visa to Pakistani boxer Muhammad Wasim, who was scheduled to participate in a training session for an upcoming championship. According to Wasim, the Danish embassy refused to issue the visa on the grounds that he might not return to Pakistan. "It was quite astonishing for me to receive this response from the embassy, especially considering that I have already participated in numerous international events," Wasim said in a media interview. "After 40 days, the embassy informed me that I could not be issued a visa, citing the possibility that I might not return. This reasoning is utterly ridiculous," he added. He has requested the Pakistani government to intervene and assist him, as his future could be at risk if he is unable to participate in the championship. He mentioned that Governor KP, Faisal Karim Kundi, has promised to support him in this matter.



# KP governor expresses concern over rising terrorism, wants APC

The governor underscored the need to promote the soft image of both the province and the country, emphasising the significance of spreading the teachings of renowned poets Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA) and Khushhal Khan Khattak

DNA

LAHOREK: hyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has expressed deep concern over escalating terrorism in the province, describing the situation as extremely critical. In a press briefing, held at Iqbal Academy Pakistan during his visit to Aiw-an-e-Iqbal on Thursday, he announced his intention to request Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to convene an all parties conference (APC) to address the deteriorating law and order situation. He affirmed that the federal government was prepared to offer all possible assistance to the provincial government in tackling the resurgence of terrorism. The governor underscored the need to promote the soft image of both the province and the country, emphasising the significance of spreading the teachings of renowned poets Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA) and Khushhal Khan Khattak. He noted that Iqbal's poetry is celebrated in countries like Iran, Turkiye and Afghanistan, and stressed the importance of using literature and poetry to propagate peaceful messages. During the media interaction, the governor expressed his disappointment with the increas-

ing incidents of extremism, laying blame on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for leaving the province in a precarious state. He recalled that in 2013, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa was a peaceful province when it was handed over to the PTI, but under their rule, the security situation significantly worsened. He urged the provincial government to seek federal assistance and hold in-camera sessions to effectively address these pressing issues. Responding to questions from the press, he stressed that the responsibility for maintaining law and order lies primarily with the chief ministers of the respective provinces, including Sindh, Balochistan, and KP. He assured that the federal government was ready to provide all forms of assistance, but criticised the provincial government for failing to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and take necessary actions. He also referred to the events of May 9, reiterating that there could be no compromise on those incidents. He accused the PTI leaders of being solely focused on corruption and noted with concern that individuals responsible for terrorism had been released and resettled in KP, contributing to the resurgence of terrorism in the region. He highlighted that during the war on terror, then-president Asif Ali Zardari allocated an additional share

of the NFC Award to KP's PTI-led government to bolster the security agencies, including the police. However, Kundi alleged that the PTI government did not utilise these funds for security improvements. He criticised PTI's governance, pointing out discrepancies between their social media portrayal and the on-ground reality of the province, particularly in projects like the Billion Tree Tsunami. The governor emphasised that under the current conditions, the responsibilities of governance could not be entrusted to the PTI. He urged the judiciary to ensure justice in the May 9 incidents, warning that failure to do so could lead to larger, more dangerous events. Kundi also highlighted the importance of strong political leadership, citing President Asif Ali Zardari's choice to face imprisonment in Pakistan as an example of commitment to the nation. Earlier in the day, Governor Kundi visited Iqbal Academy Pakistan at Aiw-an-e-Iqbal, where he toured various departments including the archives, library, and IT section. Professor Abdul Rauf Rafique, Director of Iqbal Academy Pakistan, provided an overview of the Academy's projects and activities. The Governor also penned his thoughts in the visitor's guest book, commending the efforts of the Academy in preserving.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a review meeting with representatives from Joint Venture Investment Companies, including Pak-Brunei Investment Company Limited (PBICL) and Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company (SPI&AIC)—DNA.

## FIA arrests 2 human traffickers, including fugitive

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday arrested two suspects involved in human trafficking, including a notorious fugitive, from Lahore and Nankana Sahib. Following the directives of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the FIA Lahore Zone took action and arrested a fugitive Abid Hussain and another suspect, Muhammad Zeeshan. According to an FIA spokesman, the fugitive Abid Hussain had swindled millions of rupees from a citizen by promising to send him to Canada. The suspect had charged the victim Rs. 1.09 million for a Canadian work visa but failed to deliver on his promise. Haseeb had been on the FIA's wanted list since 2022. In another operation, the suspect Muhammad Zeeshan, along with his accomplices, had extorted Rs. 660,000 from a citizen under the pretext of arranging employment in the UAE. However, Zeeshan failed to secure the promised job abroad and subsequently went into hiding after taking the money.—APP

## KMU strengthens support for Afghan students

PESHAWAR: Vice Chancellor Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, has stated that Afghanistan is our brotherly neighboring country, and its students are being provided equal opportunities for learning and research at KMU and its affiliated institutions as Pakistani students. All necessary resources and support will be provided to Afghan students to help them succeed in their education and integrate smoothly into university life. Additionally, all their other issues will be addressed on a priority basis. These remarks were made by Professor Dr. Zia-ul-Haq during a recent meeting with representatives of Afghan students studying at various institutions within the university. The meeting focused on discussing the key issues faced by Afghan students during the admission process, it was suggested that a focal person be appointed in each affiliated institution of KMU to guide Afghan stu-

was the delay in obtaining equivalency certificates from Afghan educational boards and Pakistani educational boards. This delay often causes difficulties for Afghan students in meeting admission deadlines, especially for new students who are unfamiliar with the process. To address this issue, it was proposed that the deadline for submitting these documents be extended until the first semester exams. If a student fails to provide the required documents after this period, their admission will be canceled. As an important step to assist Afghan students, the Vice Chancellor of KMU has already instructed that the tuition fee structure for Afghan students admitted on open merit will be equal to that of Pakistani students. To further reduce the difficulties faced by Afghan students during the admission process, it was suggested that a focal person be appointed in each affiliated institution of KMU to guide Afghan stu-

dents through the admission process and recommend them to the relevant forum for open merit admissions. The meeting also highlighted the issue of delays in the research work of Afghan postgraduate students, often caused by visa-related problems, which prevent students from travelling to Pakistan for discussions with their supervisors. In this connection, it was proposed that supervisors allocate specific times twice a week for online consultations, so that Afghan students can receive timely guidance and complete their research work effectively. Additionally, the language differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan were acknowledged as a challenge for Afghan students. It was suggested that special exams be conducted to help improve their grades. Furthermore, it was agreed that Afghan students would be allowed to organize cultural activities at KMU to promote cultural exchange.—APP

## One dies, two injure in Truck-Trailer collision

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: One person was killed and two others got injured after a collision between a truck and trailer here on Thursday. According to Rescue 1122 spokesman Aizaz Mehmood, a truck was rammed into a trailer due to overspeeding near Pusha-Pull on Bannu Road. As a result, one person died and two others got injured. The accident also caused significant damage to both vehicles. The rescue teams extricated the victims from the vehicles and shifted them to the hospital after providing first aid to the injured. The deceased was identified as Saeed Marwat son of Shaista Khan while the injured included Shakeel Khan and Nemat Ullah.—APP

## CM assistant assures transparent procurement of medicines

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption, Brigadier (Retd) Musaddiq Abbasi, has responded to allegations of rampant corruption in the purchase of medicines, stating that the procurement was made by the caretaker government under MCC 2023-24. He clarified that a material committee has been formed to investigate the matter, as ordered by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He assured that the upcoming MCC 2024-25 will be transparent and merit-based. Assistant also highlighted that the decentralized purchase system will ensure better quality and cheaper medicines. He emphasized that maintaining proper stock levels is also a priority.—APP

## Improving workers' conditions and eradicating forced labour crucial

Speaking at the event, ILO Country Director Geir T. Tonstol emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to improve conditions for textile industry workers to retain its Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status from the European Union

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), convened a high-level consultation today under the BRIDGE project with media leaders at the ILO office in Islamabad. The event focused on the critical role of the media in addressing forced labour and promoting fair recruitment practices in Pakistan. Speaking at the event, ILO Country Director Geir T. Tonstol emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to im-

prove conditions for textile industry workers to retain its Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status from the European Union. "With Pakistan's economy heavily reliant on textile exports, it is imperative to enhance working conditions in this sector to maintain our GSP+ status," he noted, stressing the importance of complying with 27 international standards related to labour, human rights, and environmental protection. The consultation brought together editors, news directors, and bureau chiefs from 25 major media organizations across the country. Discussions cen-

tered on how media coverage can be enhanced to raise awareness, influence public opinion, and drive policy reforms to combat forced labour in the informal sector and ensure ethical recruitment practices. Dr. Faisal Iqbal, the National Project Coordinator at ILO, highlighted the media's pivotal role in raising public awareness about forced labour and advocating for fair recruitment practices. "Media can be key influencers in shaping public perceptions about forced labour and labour migration," Dr. Iqbal stated, emphasizing the media's responsibility in driving meaningful change.

## OICCI Showcases Commitment to IT Sector at ITCN Asia 2024

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) affirmed its commitment to advancing Pakistan's IT and telecom sectors at ITCN Asia 2024, a Tech Festival being held at the Expo Centre Karachi from August 27th to August 29th. In a keynote address, OICCI President, Mr. Rehan Shaikh shared an optimistic vision for the future, underlining the significant potential in Pakistan for growth in IT and IT-enabled Services (ITES), optimization of which can lead to a substantial boost in the domestic industry as well as export revenues. In his speech, Mr. Shaikh underscored OICCI's longstanding role as the oldest and most prominent chamber of commerce in Pakistan, representing 200+ multinational companies (MNCs) and contributing a substantial portion of the country's economic growth.—APP

## Over 3.7m traffic violators caught in 2024

LAHORE: The Lahore Traffic Police issued over 3.7 million challan tickets to citizens for traffic law violations in the provincial capital in eight months, with motorcyclists being the most frequent offenders. This year alone, more than 1.24 million individuals were penalised for violating lane and stop line rules. Additionally, 352,488 vehicles were targeted for driving without a licence. The crackdown also saw 249,000 motorcyclists issued challan tickets for riding without a helmet. Moreover, 50,406 vehicles, motorcycles, and rickshaws were penalised for underage driving. In an effort to curb pollution, 17,255 vehicles emitting dangerous levels of smoke were impounded at various police stations. The authorities also seized 166,000 vehicles for operating without number-plates or with applied-for registration. A total of 29,000 vehicles faced action for driving against one-way traffic rules, while 93,277 vehicles were penalised for obstructing the flow of traffic. Furthermore, 36,000 vehicles were fined for running red lights, and 21,000 for not wearing seat belts. The use of mobile phones while driving led to action against 45,643 vehicles, while dangerous driving accounted for penalties against 63,975 vehicles. According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Lahore Ammara Athar, fines for violations such as driving without a helmet, one-way traffic breaches, wrong parking, excessive smoke emissions, and driving without a licence stand at Rs. 2,000. The CTO Lahore emphasised that the purpose of the actions was to ensure supremacy of the traffic laws and maintain an organised flow of traffic. "The aim of issuing challans is not to generate revenue but to correct the behaviour of citizens," stated Ammara Athar, CTO Lahore.—DNA

## Social media blitz leading to closure of cinemas in KP

PESHAWAR: Ehsan Khan, a 55-year-old aficionado of Pakistani cinema, is deeply disheartened by the recent closure of iconic theaters such as Tasweer Mahal and Novelty in Peshawar due to the onslaught of social media. The decline in cinema attendance, driven by the rise of social media platforms like Facebook and TikTok, has severely impacted the local entertainment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially in Peshawar, which was once known as the city of performing art and musicians. Ehsan, who recently returned to Peshawar after 20 years abroad, was distressed to witness the shuttering of 16 cinema houses in Peshawar city once renowned for its vibrant arts scene. "Before I went abroad for labour work in 2004, my friends and I frequented Tasweer Mahal, Shabistan, and Nov-

elty cinemas to watch our favourite Pashto, English, and Urdu films in a relaxed setting. It was a source of immense joy and pleasure for us," he recalled. The closures of notable cinemas such as Shabistan (Firdus), Palwasha, Capital, Falak Sair, Novelty, Metro, Picture House, Sabrina, and Ihsrat due to internet invasion have been particularly disheartening for film enthusiasts. Many of these venues have been repurposed into commercial spaces and hotels, depriving thousands of moviegoers of their cherished entertainment options. Besides these oldest cinemas, Arshad Cinema, Sabreena, Aaena, Naz and Shama were mostly deserted these days due to lack of new films, high-production film-cost, pathetic seating facilities and lacklustre approach of the authorities towards film and entertain-

ment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Peshawar has a unique distinction of producing many national and international legendary films starts including Bollywood iconic hero Yousaf Khan alias Dalip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Lollywood famous actors Qavi Khan, Ismail Shahid, Najebullah Anjum, Javeed Babar and Firdus Jamal who ruled over cinema world. The presence of these cinema legends was almost a guarantee for the success of a movie at the box office. However, the loss of seven cinemas including those of the colonial era due to the lack of production of new films in Urdu and Pashto, property taxes on cinemas, security concerns, and rising trend of social media and commercialization adversely affected the entertainment industry in the city of artists besides discouragement of new talent.

Renowned psychiatrist and former principal of Khyber Medical College, Professor Dr Khalid Mufti said cinema was important for a healthy and tolerant society due to its positive impact on people's mental and psychological mood. He said cinema was an effective tool for nation-building and expanding the country's soft image globally, adding that quality films have the widest impact among all art forms including dramas, stages and theatres. Dr Mufti said that one of the reasons for the rising trend of intolerance, incidents of terrorism and violence in the society was dying cinema culture in the wake of the mushroom growth of social media and commercialism. He admitted that social media has also adversely affected cinema culture and demanded the construction of new cinemas and exemption of taxes and customs duties

on film equipment besides job security for film-makers, producers and artists for sustainable promotion of performing arts in Pakistan. The proliferation of internet use in Pakistan, which crossed 111 million early this year, has mainly contributed to the decline of the entertainment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. About 71.90 million people use social media which is equating to 29.5 million of the total population of the country. Similarly, about 188.9 million cellular connections are active in Pakistan which is equal to 77.8 percent of 241 million population. Alike, the users of Facebook have jumped to record 44.50 million while 71.70 million population use YouTube, 17.30 million on Instagram, 54.38 million on TikTok and 30.21 million on snapchat, affecting films and TV dramas.—DNA

**MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN**

**WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED**

JUDO  
KARATE  
KUNG-FU  
JU-JITSU  
TAEKWONDO  
UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS

**Ashraf**

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD  
127 C, Industrial Estate  
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan  
Phones: +92-51-3259000 / 3259798  
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk



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



#### Hospitals

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



#### Departments

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

#### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

## Milan university students' delegation meets Romina

Romina Khurshid Alam told the students that ranked among the world's top ten climate-vulnerable country, Pakistan had been experiencing a rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, particularly unprecedented floods, intense monsoon rains, intense devastating heatwaves, rapid glacial melting and consequent glacial lake outburst floods

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A four-member delegation of students from Italy's Milan University called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam to discuss the pressing issue of climate change and its impacts on Pakistan. During the meeting held here on Thursday in the climate change and environmental delegation ministry, the students' delegation was also apprised of the various socio-economic impacts of climate change and the government's policy measures for building the country's climate resilience, a news release said. On the occasion, the PM's climate aide welcomed the students' delegation and said, "As we all know, climate change is one of the most critical challenges facing our world today, and its effects are increasingly evident in Pakistan." Romina Khurshid Alam told the students that ranked among the world's top ten climate-vulnerable country, Pakistan had been experiencing a rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, particularly unprecedented floods, intense monsoon rains, intense devastating heatwaves, rapid glacial melting and consequent glacial lake outburst floods. The recent heatwave in June 2024 saw temperatures soar to record highs, impacting public health and agriculture, she highlighted. She further said, "Floods, which are becoming more intense



and frequent, displace thousands of families, damage infrastructure, and disrupt livelihoods, especially in rural areas." "For resource-poor the country, managing these fallout of climate change has become a grave challenge because of the frequency and magnitude at which they are occurring and inadequate financial and technical resources," the PM's climate aide said. Talking about impacts on agriculture sector, Romina Khurshid Alam told the students that climate change was also affecting crop yields and food security. "Unpredictable weather patterns and extreme temperatures are harming crops and reducing productivity to an extent that crop failures

and fall in productivity of different crops had become new normal in the country, with significant implications for food prices and rural economies," Ms Alam explained. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns were aks disrupting local ecosystems, badly affecting bio-diversity. Such changes in weather patterns caused due to climate change, included shifts in bio-diversity and the health of key habitats such as mangroves and wetland, which provide environmental protection and livelihoods for the resource-dependent community. The present government was implementing various adaptation strategies, including flood management projects, improved water

resource management, and early warning systems. There are also initiatives to promote climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable land use practices. Sharing details about the government's coping strategy, she said that for addressing these climate risks and for building climate resilience of the people, their livelihoods, ecosystems and public infrastructure, the present government was implementing various adaptation strategies, including flood management projects, improved water resource management, and enhancing network of early warning systems across the country for improved and more reliable weather and disaster forecast.

## Finding innovative and creative solutions concludes at NUST

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: The Grand Finale and Prize Distribution Ceremony of Finding Innovative and Creative Solutions (FICS 2024), a flagship initiative of NUST towards fostering social entrepreneurship, was held at the university's main campus on Thursday. The 11th edition of FICS expanded its international footprint to Turkey and Azerbaijan in partnership with Azerbaijan Technical University and Alinbas University, Turkey. The robust competition witnessed as many as 800 project submissions from over 30 NUST Schools and Colleges, and national and international institutions.

Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani graced the event as chief guest. Prominent amongst others were Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, and Ambassadors and esteemed educationists from Azerbaijan, Turkey and Brunei Darussalam. The overall national winner of FICS '24 was Team Harassment Defender. It is an indigenous, female-led initiative that seamlessly integrates hardware and app capabilities to address women's safety concerns. The winning team was awarded a cash prize of PKR 500,000. In addition, 1st and 2nd runner-ups were awarded

cash prizes of PKR 300,000 and PKR 150,000, respectively. Meanwhile, the Global Champion Award of USD 5000 was conferred upon an international team ABC (Amyotrophic Brain Cube) from Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University. The team stood out amongst international contestants. A Special Award was also bestowed upon team Plastigade from NUST School of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the category of SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). In addition, a Social Impact Award was won by team Visionary from Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU), Azerbaijan. The chief guest, Mr Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, Sec-

retary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, complimented the finalists of FICS '24 and their mentors, particularly the winners for their ingenious ideas and solutions to address challenges facing the country and beyond. He stressed the need for figuring out the real issues, and subsequently conceiving and materialising innovative ideas for poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction, and fighting illiteracy in the far-reaches of the country. The Federal Secretary also emphasized promotion of cost-efficient technology-driven solutions for catering to the educational needs of the underprivileged segments of the society.

## OICCI express commitment to IT sector at ITCN Asia 2024

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) affirmed its commitment to advancing Pakistan's IT and telecom sectors at ITCN Asia 2024, a Tech Festival on Thursday. In a keynote address, OICCI President Rehan Shaikh shared an optimistic vision for the future, underlining the significant potential in Pakistan for growth in IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS), optimization of which can lead to a substantial boost in the domestic industry as well as export revenues. He underscored OICCI's longstanding role as the oldest and most prominent chamber of commerce in Pakistan, representing 200+ multinational companies (MNCs) and contributing a substantial portion of the country's economic growth. He emphasized the critical

importance of a robust IT ecosystem, not just as a catalyst for business efficiency but as a cornerstone for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and driving sustainable economic growth in Pakistan. "What we need is a sustainable environment, and we need a platform that helps us to put those policies in place," he added. However, he also highlighted the challenges that need to be addressed to propel Pakistan onto the global stage in the IT sector. These challenges included bridging the skills gap in specialized areas like AI, cybersecurity, improving infrastructure, and ensuring consistent investment and policy support. He said that investing in and prioritizing IT services was sending a strong message to global investors that Pakistan was not only open for business but also ready to support complex, high-tech operations in a climate

conductive to innovation and growth. Shaikh projected that Pakistan's IT/IteS export revenues could expand to between \$10-18 billion by 2028, while the domestic IT industry has the potential to grow to over \$6 billion annually. Furthermore, he emphasized the transformative potential of digitalization, which could unlock an annual economic value of \$35 billion by 2030. By digitizing key sectors such as SMEs and agriculture, which constitute nearly two-thirds of Pakistan's GDP, the country could significantly increase its GDP, employment rates, and exports. He praised the State Bank of Pakistan's efforts, particularly in executing the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, which leverages technologies like digital onboarding to expand financial access. He cited the entry of five digital banks into the industry,

## Jazz hosts productive information session

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator hosted an insightful and productive information session with the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) aimed at establishing a long-term partnership to build a digital Pakistan. The session underscored the commitment of both organizations to fostering innovation and enhancing Pakistan's technology ecosystem, with both sides expressing strong enthusiasm for future collaborations to drive the nation's digital transformation, said a news release. Chief Legal Officer at Jazz said Saima Kamila Khan, "We are honoured to have hosted the STZA team and to explore the potential of our collaboration. At Jazz, we believe in collaboration to drive meaningful change, and the session has solidified our shared vision of a digitally empowered Pakistan, especially as Jazz transitions to the ServiceCo model. STZA's crucial role in shaping Pakistan's digital landscape and boosting the economy through technology-driven initiatives is commendable, promoting exports, entrepreneurship, job creation, and innovation. Together, we aim to drive innovation and position Pakistan as a leader in the global digital arena." Chief Legal Officer at STZA Iqra Musaddaq, thanked Jazz for organizing the insightful session and said, "We had an incredible experience during this session. The interactions with the Jazz team across various departments encouraged and inspired us. We look forward to establishing a long-term partnership with Jazz, Pakistan's digital leader, to uplift the country's technology eco-system that will drive innovation and contribute meaningfully to the nation's digital future." —APP

## Saudi ministry issues health advisory for Hajj 2025

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has issued a health advisory for Hajj 2025, outlining strict requirements for prospective pilgrims, with particular emphasis on the exclusion of individuals suffering from complex medical conditions. According to spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, individuals with severe illnesses will not be permitted to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage. He said this measure is in response to the anticipated extreme weather conditions during the Hajj season, and it is to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims. The spokesperson further clarified that those suffering from serious kidney, heart, lung, liver diseases and cancer would not be allowed to participate in Hajj. Additionally, he said individuals diagnosed with dementia or contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, whooping cough, and other similar illnesses will also be barred from the pilgrimage. He informed that the advisory also specifies that children under 12 years of age and pregnant women will not be permitted to perform Hajj. Furthermore, Umar said it is mandatory for all pilgrims to be vaccinated against meningitis, COVID-19, seasonal influenza, and polio, as part of the health protocols set forth by the Saudi authorities. He made it clear that only those who were in good health and physically capable of enduring the rigors of the pilgrimage were allowed to undertake the sacred journey.—DNA

## Senate committee emphasizes prioritizing national interests

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Privatization chaired by Senator Muhammad Tullal Badar was held today at Parliament House. In attendance were Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan, Senator Khalida Ateeq, Senator Khalil Tahir, Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, the Secretary of Privatization, and the senior officials from the concerned department. The meeting began with a briefing by the Secretary of Privatization on the expenses incurred and proceeds received from privatization over the last five years. It was reported that the total proceeds during this period amounted to 4,389 Million, while the total expenses were 1,992 Million. The committee members critically examined the list of companies where transactions were impeded. The Secretary explained that the National Power Park Company was not privatized by the government. Similarly, the Privatization of Pakistan Steel Mill was halted due to the withdrawal of bidders, and the Jinnah Convention Center was stalled due to due diligence issues and observations from the CDA.

Furthermore, the Chairman of the Committee recommended that privatization officials provide details on the expenditure of privatized DISCOs, along with a financial analysis, in the next meeting. The Chairman also emphasized the need to call upon the Power Division for detailed scrutiny and to outline a way forward for privatization. The Chairman of the Committee emphasized that often political interests are put ahead of national interests in one way or another and that ends up against what is in Pakistan's favor. He also stressed that if PIA or the steel mill collapses, neither the interests of the employees nor those of Pakistan will be protected. The Secretary (privatization) also remarked that privatization will only be successful if all stakeholders support it. If everyone agrees that the concept is sound, then it should be implemented moving forward. He added that this program can only succeed if everyone collaborates and provides their support.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov meets with Commerce Minister Jam Kamal. —DNA

**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

## CPO urges students to work hard

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani has urged the students to work hard and play an active role for the development of the country. During a visit to Punjab Art Council (PAC) Rawalpindi, the CPO inaugurated, Digital Art Exhibition titled 'Beautiful Pakistan' as chief guest. Member Punjab Assembly, Shazia Rizwan was also present on this occasion. Syed Khalid Hamdani took special interest in digital artworks, displayed in the Arts Gallery. The exhibition showcased over 100 artworks created on the historical places of Pakistan by male and female students of Art Council, Digital Graphic Department. Member Provincial Assembly, Shazia Rizwan said that Rawalpindi district police were striving hard to eliminate criminals under the command of CPO, Syed Khalid Hamdani. The CPO said that the young generation has the best abilities and urged them to enlighten the name of the country and the nation with their hard work, dedication and commitment. Appreciating the digital art work of the students, Syed Khalid Hamdani said that Rawalpindi Police are always ready to encourage and support the talented youngsters. Focus and attention lead to success, he said adding, the set targets could only be achieved with hard work. He invited male and female students to come and participate in Police Internship and Friends of Police programs. He further said that the efforts of the teachers of the Arts Council are also praiseworthy. There are many challenges for the police and Rawalpindi district police are making all-out efforts to protect life and property of the citizens. He said, "We are working day and night to create a safe and secure environment for the citizens according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab." On the special instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Rawalpindi Police are playing an active role for the protection and welfare of women and children. —DNA

## Police arrest two bike lifters with 16 motorcycles

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered 16 stolen motorcycles, weapons and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO Gujjar Khan Police Station managed to net two bike lifters, members of Shehryar gang namely Shehryar and Arslan and recovered 16 stolen motorcycles, weapons and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Sadder Muhammad Nabeel said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars. —APP

## Fishermen, Coastal residents cautioned

ISLAMABAD: Chief Meteorologist Dr. Sardar Sarfraz sounds the alarm on Tropical Cyclone, warning fishermen in Sindh to exercise extreme caution and advising coastal residents and visitors to take immediate precautions to ensure their safety as the storm closes in. Talking to a private news channel, Sarfraz said that tropical cyclone Yayu is expected to bring strong winds, heavy rainfall, and rough seas, posing a significant threat to those in the storm's path. Fishermen are advised to remain in port and avoid venturing into the open sea until the cyclone has passed. Residents and visitors in coastal areas are also urged to take necessary precautions, including stockpiling essential supplies, securing outdoor furniture and decorations, and staying indoors during the storm. Dr. Sarfraz emphasizes the importance of staying informed through reliable weather updates and following evacuation orders if issued. —APP

## SIFC achieves progress in addressing economic issues

During the period, several noteworthy steps were taken to address systemic barriers that were adversely affecting Pakistan's economic condition and contributing to a constant structural crisis

Faisal Sheikh

ISLAMABAD: The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has made substantial progress in addressing systemic barriers to the country's economic growth and promoting investment in various sectors since 2023. According to a press release issued by the SIFC Secretariat here Thursday, the council within limited resources, held ten meetings of the SIFC Apex Committee, ten meetings of its Executive Committee, five Implementation Committee meetings, three Special Apex Committee, three Special Executive Committee meetings, and over 300 Working Group meetings, leading to substantial advancements across various dimensions. During the period, several noteworthy steps were taken to address systemic barriers that were adversely affecting Pakistan's economic condition and contributing to a constant structural crisis. The measures included the reversal of 2.5% turnover tax & 25% dividend tax on SEZs; the reversal of 25% Sales Tax (previously 8.5%) on Hybrid Electric Vehicles; approval of incentives for ITZs by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in Finance Bill 2024 leading to reduction of mutation fee to 1% and drafting and sharing of Green paper (1st draft) for harmonization of Mineral Policy. In addition, it enabled the launch of the performance Audit of the Geological

Survey of Pakistan in March 2024; the formulation of draft rules for Unmanned Aircraft; enacting national Cloud Procurement Framework; resolved the matter of Inordinate delays in cases of VISA extension; defined contours of energy sector circular debt reduction plan; extended exemption on Sales Tax and Income Tax to residents of erstwhile FATA/ PATA and helped in launching of Land Information Management System to access 10 million farmers. The SIFC steps also helped approval of a new VISA Policy including an immediate issuance of a 6-month VISA in 24 hours while its Anti-Theft Power Campaigns led to a recovery of PKR 85.7 billion (31 Jan). According to press release the measures also comprise approval for the establishment of the National Industrial Development & Regulatory Authority; establishment of Cannabis Control & Regulatory Authority (CCRA); drafting of Export Oriented National Industrial Policy – by April 2024 – 1st Draft finalized; a roadmap for implementation of Auto Sector Localization & Export Policy; Plan for enhancing Electric Vehicles Eco-system; approval of National Framework for Telecom Infrastructure sharing; finalization of Strategic Plan for Development of 06 Canals; clearance of over 70 percent backlog of Repatriation of Funds and enhancement of export proceeds retention limit from 35% to 50% for IT companies. SIFC also helped

harmonization of Regulatory & legal regime for minerals sector; approval of the regulatory framework for Battery Storage for Wind Power; Journey towards virtual LNG – LNG Easy to establish Virtual LNG Terminal & Supply System; Freelancer Growth including new banking facilities with minimum documentation for freelancers; establishment of Integrated Labor Market Research Cell (LMRC); formulation of National Space Policy and rules (approved by Cabinet); formulation of STZA board, lack of which was hindering registration of 124 companies' in STZs. It also facilitated imposition of minimum Export Price (UST 130 / MT) of Khewra Pink Rock Salt; Seed Sector Reforms; restructuring of FSCRD, Streamlining of National Seed Certification, National Seed Authority; drafting of National Seed Policy, and Agriculture Development Authority Act; approval of the Aquaculture Policy to tap into the coastal regions untapped potential; approval for Uniform Right of Way (ROW) charges, paving way for Telecom Sector; appointment of Investment Ombudsmen and finalization of new KPIs finalized for foreign missions. The statement added that in the context of improving investment climate and deepening ease of doing business reforms, SIFC's immediate priorities include FBR reforms and the restructuring of Ministry of National Food Security and Research's attached institutions.

Special taskforces under SIFC are also combating nationwide electricity theft, focusing on eliminating substandard seed companies, defining the contours of a national industrial development & regulatory framework, and harmonizing Pakistan's national minerals framework. SIFC has finalized numerous investment projects across various sectors, including Agriculture, Minerals, IT & Telecommunication, Energy, Industry, Tourism, Privatization, Health, Human Resource Development, Trade & Connectivity. The council also facilitated dispute resolutions between Gulf Pet and PEL, and PQA and Trans Asia Refinery, as well as reconstitution of KE-Board of Directors. Additionally, SIFC has facilitated approvals for Riali HPP and Sapphire Chemicals, resolved PSM land lease issues and water allotments, and assisted in renewal of salt leases and allocation of land for Green Corporate Initiative. Furthermore, SIFC has facilitated the establishment of a Chromebook assembly line and Silicon Village Islamabad, released hold-up doses, and initiated commercial operations of solar plants. The organization has also signed PCAs and exploration licenses, completed transactions, and cleared the roadmap for divestment and privatization. Other notable achievements include approval of a solar captive power project, cultivation of land, identification of provincial barren

land, and land levelling efforts. SIFC has also signed an MoU for the Reko Diq Project, established E-Rozgar centers, and launched the Pakistan Startup Fund. In a significant boost to international collaboration, SIFC has announced several major deals with friendly countries. Notably, a \$75 million joint venture has been signed between Hub Solar Salt and Balochistan Mineral Resources Limited (BMRL) for a massive salt production project, set to be completed by 2025. Additionally, a joint venture agreement has been signed with Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc (USA) for pink salt value addition. SIFC has also signed seven multi-billion-dollar MOUs with the UAE, covering areas such as food and agriculture, mining, energy, and banking. Similarly, seven framework agreements have been signed with Kuwait for water sector projects, including the Ghazi Barotha Hydroelectric project and minerals development in Chaghi. Furthermore, SIFC has engaged in G2G and B2B dealings with KSA, signing an MoU for telecom sector investments and a 5G spectrum auction. The TAPI project has also seen significant progress, with all agreements finalized to be signed by March 2024. Other notable deals include the import of ovum pickup technology from Brazil and the drafting of an agreement for sexed semen technology with ST Genetics, USA.

## 12 arrested for overcharging in ICT's vegetable market crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad district administration, led by Assistant Commissioner Pothohar Aneeq Anwar on Thursday carried out a significant operation in the vegetable market to curb overpricing. During the operation, 12 shopkeepers were arrested for selling vegetables at prices higher than the official rate list, said the spokesman of ICT administration. According to officials, several vendors were found setting their own prices, leading to arbitrary and inflated rates for customers. In response, the district administration has promised strict action against anyone found violating the official pricing guidelines. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the residents to buy their groceries according to the official rate list and report any instances of overcharging to the authorities. The district administration has made it clear that it will continue its rigorous checks and actions against any vendors found violating the established price norms. It is pertinent to mention here that operations are going on against price hike, professional beggars, illegal petrol filling agencies, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) filling stations and others on daily basis to curb the illegal practices in the Federal Capital. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Alfred Grannas said on his X message, "Time has flown by! It's already been 3 years since my colleague Dorota joined us in Islamabad. As she moves on, we welcome Jan to our Communications & Culture team. Wishing Dorota all the best, and a warm welcome to Jan! Jan enjoys food a lot. What food should he try first? —DNA

## BISP signs agreement with WFP

ISLAMABAD: In order to combat malnutrition, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and World Food Programme (WFP) have joined hands to expand the scope of Benazir Nashonuma initiative. In this regard, BISP has signed a two-year agreement with the WFP in Rome to extend the Benazir Nashonuma Programme, the largest government-funded initiative in

WFP's history. According to an official source, this partnership strengthens BISP's commitment to combat malnutrition in Pakistan, providing essential support to over four million pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children less than two years of age. The initiative will help build a healthier future for Pakistan's children through collaborative efforts. World Food Programme (WFP) is

the lead implementing partner for Benazir Nashonuma initiative since its inception. Benazir Nashonuma initiative aims at addressing stunting among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and their children less than two years of age through the provision of additional cash of Rs. 2,500 per quarter per PLW and boy child each and Rs. 3,000/- per quarter per girl child of BISP beneficiary families. While Rs.1500/ are

given to the girls aged between 15-19 years. For the flood affected areas, Rs. 3500 are given to per PLW and boy child each and Rs. 4000 for girl child. In return, mothers are required to attend regular antenatal health checks and awareness sessions during pregnancy, consume specialized nutritious food (SNF), and take their children for immunization and regular health checks. According to the statistics, Pakistan's high rates of malnutrition (40.2 percent stunting, 28.9 percent underweight, and 17.7 percent wasting) are indicative of an ongoing child nutrition crisis. —APP

## Tarar emphasises role of media in curbing Islamophobia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said that Islamophobia has become a menace at global level and highlighted the role of media in curbing the menace. He was addressing a gathering at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on the launching ceremony of the book titled "Do Muslims Scare You? A guide for Journalists" au-

thored by Osama Bin Javaid, a journalist and member of Aljazeera Media Institute, currently visiting NUML. Rector NUML Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani (Retd), on this occasion, emphasized the role of media in curbing Islamophobia as it is creating hatred against Muslims and destroying the social fabric of international community. The Minister said that it is need of the hour to control the rising tide of Islamophobia and the media can play key role in this regard.

He commended the role of Aljazeera TV for playing a pivotal role in creating awareness about Islamophobia at global level. Tarar opined that western media is biased and will never show the facts, in a time like this having the only Muslim channel is a blessing and government of Pakistan is willing to support Aljazeera news network and MoU could be signed in future to better serve the cause. He thanked Rector NUML for organizing such an im-

portant event on an international issue and educating the youth that what is happening in the world of media at global level. Earlier, Rector NUML emphasized that media is an important tool and can play its role to counter Islamophobia at global level and media can contribute towards a more tolerant society. He thanked the honourable Federal Minister and the Aljazeera Media Institute for making this ceremony a great success.

## IRSA releases 281,500 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 281,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 296,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the 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 were recorded as 192,200 cusecs and 191,700 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1217.90 feet, which was 169.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 22,100 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 240,800, 169,000, 226,100 and 267,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 34,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 18,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## ICCI Election: Atif Jamil Butt announces support to founder group

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prominent personality of Progressive Itehad Group Islamabad Atif Jamil Butt has announced his complete and unconditional support to the Founder Group in the forthcoming Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry election. He has also announced to withdraw the nomination papers of his candidates fielded against the Founder Group candidates. This significance announcement has been made during a luncheon held here in Islamabad on Thursday. On this occasion Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari,

ICCI Council members Khalid Javaid, Tariq Sadiq, Mian Akram Farid, Mian Shaikat Masood and Progressive Itehad Group's Khalid Imran, Arshad Abbasi, Asim Abbas, Feroz Khan, Rai Tanveer and members of Progressive Itehad belonging to all the markets of Islamabad were present. In his address Khalid Iqbal Malik said that Atif Jamil Butt is a dynamic and progressive personality who has joined the Founder Group unconditionally and that he by using his abilities will work for the unity and welfare of the business community. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that he and Atif Jamil Butt has a eleven year old relationship and he has found him very sincere and devoted figure and that we will fully utilize his talent for further strengthening the Chamber.

In his remarks Zafar Bakhtawari said that after this milestone decision of Atif Jamil Butt, the election of September 17 has turned as just a formality. He added that success of Founder Group was already confirm but now has authenticated. Atif Jamil Butt by admitting the services of the Founder Group leaders for the cause of the business community pledged to work unilaterally for the resolution of the community's problems. Former President ICCI Khalid Javaid termed the hallmark decision of the Atif Jamil Butt as an extraordinary incident in Chambers politics and expressed the hope that young Atif Jamil Butt will prove an asset for the ICCI. The event was also addressed by Mian Akram Farid, Arshad Abbasi, Khalid Imran and other.

**General Practice**  
HEALTHCARE CENTRE

General Physician Services	General Surgery	Neurology	Plastic Surgery	Physiotherapy Rehabilitation
Medicine	Pediatrics & Child Health	Orthopedics & Sports Medicine	Ear, Nose & Throat	Laboratory Services
Gynecology & Women's Health	Cardiology	Urology	Psychology & Mental Health	Nursing Staff
Dermatology & Aesthetics	Psychiatry	Pulmonology	Ophthalmology	Diagnostic Radiology
Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle	Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery	Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Nephrology	Pre-employment Health Screen

Keeping you Healthy!

to Islamabad's finest private medical centre, where your complete wellbeing is our top priority. We are committed to providing you with the best possible care in a good physical condition is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to establishing long-term trusting relationships with our patients and their families, offering the highest quality of care to health and continuity of care.

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



Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

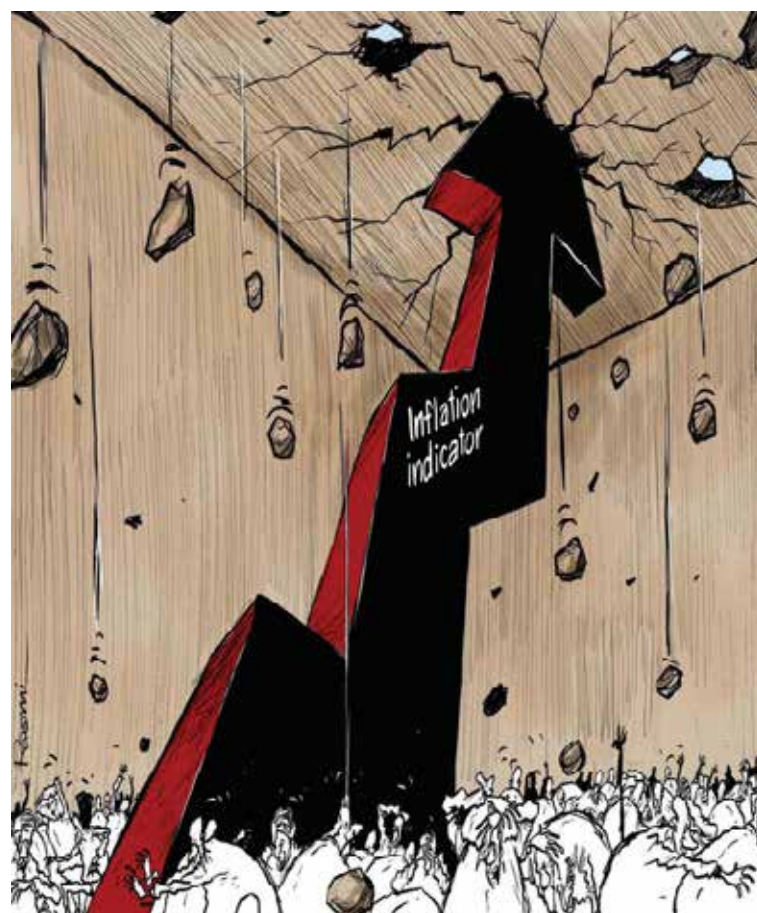
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 237

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

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## The cloying scent of Musk

AT the height of a series of riots that took place across British towns and cities earlier this summer, the owner of the X-rated social media platform formerly known as Twitter sought to embolden the rioters by declaring that the United Kingdom was in a state of civil war. He and his increasingly virulent platform have managed to do a great deal to promote and apparently legitimize the views of far-right extremists, criminals whose only concerns are their hatred for immigrants and ethnic minorities and their fondness for looting, vandalism, and mob violence. One UK government minister described Elon Musk's comments as "pretty deplorable". She added that "for someone who has a big platform, a large following, to be exercising that power in such an irresponsible way, is actually pretty unconscionable." Mr. Musk then went on to attempt directly to goad the British Prime Minister on his own increasingly antisocial media platform, before sharing the entirely fake news that Keir Starmer's administration was "considering building 'emergency detention camps' on the Falkland Islands" to house arrested rioters. He has branded the British premier "two tier Keir" in an attempt to bolster the absurd myth that the UK police take action against white people but let people of color get off scot-free – rather than that (as is the case) these officers of the law tend to do their best to uphold that law and preserve the peace by arresting violent rioters and allowing peaceful protesters to get on with their business of protesting peacefully. Musk has also tried to smear Mr. Starmer's plans to prosecute (or at one point, supposedly to 'execute') those people who attempted to set fire to hotels housing refugees and to attack Muslims and mosques, and has generally done his best to continue to propagate the violent disorder into which Britain briefly sank. Indeed, one of Twitter's former vice presidents has gone so far as to suggest to The Guardian newspaper that the X boss should face arrest warrants for his ostensible attempts to incite criminal violence – supposing that "Musk might force his angry tweets to the top of your timeline, but the will of a democratically elected government should mean more than the fury of a tech oligarch." Meanwhile, Mr. Musk has reignited a dispute with Scotland's former first minister Humza Yousaf, whom he has described as a "super, super racist... scumbag" who "loathes" white people – and who has, in turn, called Musk a "dangerous race baiter" and "one of the most dangerous men on the planet". Mr. Yousaf's successor, Scottish first minister John Swinney, has even had to intervene, denouncing Musk's remarks as "baseless" and "reprehensible". This strange engagement was rambling and unfocused, and it has been reported that Republican strategists have since told Mr. Trump that it could only possibly have appealed to supporters who'd already committed themselves, their families, their neighbors, their pets, and their collections of assault rifles to voting for him. There have been calls from some commentators that the British government should consider banning Musk's X altogether, but that would both be impractical and raise massive questions about the rights to freedom of expression exercised by the many hundreds of thousands of legitimate users of the platform. Others within the UK – certainly many within the more progressive social media bubbles – are talking of closing their accounts, or have already done so.

## Germany's 'historical responsibility'

ONE of the most apt characterisations of Germany's unholy alliance with the Israeli regime I have come across in a book on climate change: In David Wallace Wells's 2019 bestseller *The Uninhabitable Earth*, the author uses the phrase "carceral model of history", which he explains as "progress arrested by the consequences of past behavior." Though written in the context of global warming and meant to illustrate how climate change has made us "prisoners of the Industrial Revolution", this formulation can also be applied to Germany's *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (the work of dealing with the past): Many argue that Germany's blind fealty to "Israel" has rendered the nation a "prisoner" of its Nazi history, much to the detriment of Palestinians who continue to pay the price for the Jewish holocaust almost eighty years after it occurred as Israel's genocidal war on Gaza continues unabated. Steadfast support for the self-professed "Jewish state" as a means to offset Nazi Germany's anti-Semitic footprint is one of the guiding principles of these self-imposed and singularly German processes of atonement. Yet with the official Palestinian death toll in Gaza having surpassed 40,000, it has become painfully clear that Germany's uncompromising adherence to this "carceral model of history" has proven to be equally calamitous as anthropogenic climate change, as Berlin continues to aid and abet the colonial slaughter of Palestine's native inhabitants under the guise of penance. Germany remains a vociferous pro-genocide outlier even among reliably pro-Zionist European nations such as Britain or France. When even Western governments condemned Tel Aviv's heinous attack on Gaza's al-Tabieen school this month, which killed over 100 displaced Palestinians who had sought shelter there, Berlin again went against the grain of universalist decency when its government deputy spokesman blindly recited the banal mantra of "Israel's" "right to defend itself." Apart from being its second largest weapons supplier, Germany has routinely come to "Israel's" defence at international courts as they try to hold the latter accountable for its indefensible war crimes, crimes against humanity and full-blown genocide. However, as the last 10 and a half months of unbridled support for "Israel's" war and intense state crackdowns on Palestine solidarity have shown, Germany still vehemently refuses to universalise its exclusivist, post-Shoah responsibility and apply the rallying cry of "Never Again" (ironically popularised in the West by Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish extremist Kahanist movement, of which Itmar Ben-Gvir, "Israel's" right-wing police minister, is a devoted follower) to Palestinians. Instead, the notoriously anti-Palestinian German Bundestag is set to pass a controversial resolution with the working title, "Never again is now: protecting, preserving and strengthening Jewish life in Germany" in its latest attempt to obfuscate who is really under threat in these times of "hyper-criminalisation of Palestine solidarity in Germany", as abolitionist academic Vanessa E. Thomson puts it. Jerzy Montag, a German politician and honorary constitutional court judge who lost several family members in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, views this revamped version of an earlier draft as "damaging" to Germany's "liberal-democratic basic order" and having "hints of racism" against immigrants from the Muslim-majority world.

# Innovative Solutions to Terrorism and Extremism

Qamar Bashir



IF I were to ask you to name the country that hosts one of the largest Islamic research institutes in the world, an Islamic institute housing over 50,000 books on Islam, your mind might naturally scan through Muslim-majority countries or even Western nations with significant Islamic scholarship. But what if I told you that this remarkable center isn't in any of those places, but rather in our iron brother, China? Yes, you read that right. In China, there's an Islamic institute that boasts a digital library with hundreds of workstations for students, state-of-the-art hostels that accommodate...

IF I were to ask you to name the country that hosts one of the largest Islamic research institutes in the world, an Islamic institute housing over 50,000 books on Islam, your mind might naturally scan through Muslim-majority countries or even Western nations with significant Islamic scholarship. But what if I told you that this remarkable center isn't in any of those places, but rather in our iron brother, China? Yes, you read that right. In China, there's an Islamic institute that boasts a digital library with hundreds of workstations for students, state-of-the-art hostels that accommodate over 500 students at a time, and a university that provides a generous stipend to its students along with guaranteed job placement. This university also has prayer halls equipped with hot and cold water year-round, and a mosque capable of hosting hundreds of Muslims for their five daily prayers in complete freedom and security. It's a place where the pursuit of Islamic knowledge is nurtured with the utmost care and respect. I recently spent three days in Urumqi, a city once known as a hotbed of unrest in China. This was my second visit to this north western city after a gap of ten years, and the transformation I witnessed was nothing short of remarkable. Unlike Pakistan, where most cities—save for a few exceptions—seem to have deteriorated over time, Urumqi has evolved into something entirely different. Ten years ago, Urumqi had the feel of a small town with a rudimentary industrial base. The streets were sparsely populated with cars, and the Grand Bazaar had the appearance of something akin to our own Raja Bazaar. But today, Urumqi is a city reborn. It now boasts an IT park, Innovative Development Corridor of Urumqi Economic and Development Zone, Software Park, Taishan Cloud Computing Industry Base and Green Valley Scientific Innovation Town where leading Chinese and international companies have established their regional headquarters, research and innovation centers, manufacturing plants, and import-export hubs providing jobs of hundreds and thousands of local youths. I had the unique experience of wandering through the Grand Bazaar in Urumqi, which has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. What was once a traditional market is now a state-of-the-art bazaar, offering every food, fruit, and sweet delicacy imaginable. The atmosphere was vibrant, with dance performances, live music, and cultural displays adding a festive touch to the bustling market. One of the most striking changes was the shift in security measures. Instead of a heavy presence in the bazaar itself, security has been moved to control rooms, allowing people to enjoy a sense of freedom

and ease as they explore. Unlike my visit twelve years ago, when only a few faces reflected prosperity, now you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who appeared to be in poverty or distress. The cultural experience at Xinjiang Art Theatre was nothing short of overwhelming. Tall, beautifully dressed girls with bright, glittering smiles, along with young boys and handsome men, danced to traditional Muslim folk tunes. Their graceful dance steps and the melodious music filled the entire atmosphere with a sense of magic and celebration, making the experience truly unforgettable. I also had the opportunity to visit Yining, another city in Xinjiang, which has developed into a bustling commercial and industrial complex along the Kazakhstan border, right on the Euro rail route. Here, towering high-rise buildings and shopping complexes have sprung up, where Chinese and Kazakh citizens engage in frantic shopping sprees. The complex also features numerous food courts and even a 5D cinema. We watched a movie that almost physically transported us across the Euro Triangle, making half the journey feel incredibly real. With substantial investment, the government has transformed the Grand Bazaar of Yining into a vibrant cultural hub. Beautifully decorated horse-drawn buggies now ferry delighted tourists through the artistically adorned bazaar and its surrounding streets. The houses in the vicinity of the bazaar have been converted into elegant guest and rest houses, where tourists can immerse themselves in the traditional lifestyle, experience local cooking, and savor delicious, mouthwatering home-cooked delicacies, along with homegrown fruits and vegetables. The out-of-this-world hospitality provided here not only offers tourists a unique cultural experience but has also given local households a decent livelihood. This innovative approach has successfully blended tourism with cultural preservation, benefiting both the visitors and the community. The once poor, rustic, and rugged shepherds have been provided with excellent homes at just 20% of the cost, payable through easy installments. They have also been equipped with modern skills in cattle and sheep breeding, as well as the production of high-quality dairy products. Additionally, they have been trained in modern agricultural techniques, enabling them to achieve a decent living and sustainable higher income. This initiative has significantly improved their quality of life and economic prospects. This is China's five prong approach to counter extremism and terrorism from its soil. First, China linked Xinjiang with the nation's main trade routes, integrating the region more closely with the rest of the country and boosting economic opportu-

nities and providing thousands of high-quality jobs to the indigenous population. Second, China revolutionized agriculture in Xinjiang by replacing primitive farming methods with ultra-modern techniques. This not only increased productivity but also improved the quality of life for farmers, reducing economic disparity and fostering stability. Third, the government made significant investments in religious education, promoting it on modern footings. Religious schools and mosques received increased funding and state protection, which not only preserved religious practices but also modernized them, creating an environment where faith and progress could coexist. Fourth, China passed numerous laws and regulations coupled with speedy justice aimed at narrowing the space for terrorism and extremism. Finally, China made a concerted effort to reduce economic and financial disparities between Muslims and non-Muslims. The government valued and promoted Muslim social and cultural values, embracing them as an integral part of China's cultural and social fabric fostering a sense of unity and belonging among its Muslim population. Through these coordinated efforts, China has successfully transformed Xinjiang from a region plagued by unrest into one characterized by stability, prosperity, and cultural pride. This model, rooted in economic development, education, legal reform, and cultural integration, offers valuable lessons in how to address the complex challenges of extremism and terrorism. However, when we compare China's strategic interventions with our own efforts in Pakistan's restive regions of Balochistan and the erstwhile FATA, we are met with a stark and, frankly, embarrassing contrast. In these regions, we have largely relied on kinetic power, failing to complement it with the multifaceted approach that China has employed to reintegrate its restive regions into the national fold. The miscreants, as well as the innocent citizens who have been ensnared by the pernicious ideologies of terrorism and extremism, are our own brothers and sisters. We must not view their elimination as the sole strategy for peace. While our armed forces are doing an exceptional job, rendering invaluable sacrifices in the fight against this two-headed monster, it is imperative that the civilian government and civil society step up to their responsibilities. We must look to China's successful practices and adapt them to our context. By doing so, we can bring our misled and misguided brothers and sisters back into the national stream as responsible, skilled, and productive members of society. This comprehensive approach is not just a necessity; it is a moral imperative for the future of our nation.

# Hats off to 'whataboutism' for exposing Western hypocrisy

Alex Loin

"At first glance, it may seem as if whataboutism is a weak way to respond to critiques," the two scholars wrote. "After all, it has long been considered a logical fallacy: two wrongs do not make a right. And the US government has hardly been chastened. American officials routinely, continuously, and openly condemn foreign governments, friends and foes alike." No, two wrongs don't make a right, but that's also relative. If my gangster neighbour has been burying bodies in his backyard, I might think it amiss for him to criticise...

THERE is a perplexing article in the current issue of *Foreign Affairs* filed by two scholars from the University of Nottingham Ningbo China and the University of Hong Kong. Despite their respective employers, the piece is really about how the United States can criticise other countries more effectively without being subverted by "Whataboutism". The title is "Why whataboutism works", with the subtitle, "In international politics, it pays to point fingers." It certainly does. America knows all about it. The term itself is problematic, but more on that later. Whataboutism works best when it points out the blatant hypocrisy of one's critic. It doesn't work so well when that critic is morally upright and has kept his nose clean. That's why whataboutism can be used very effectively by countries targeted by the United States, but far less so with critics that have a long history of peaceful and genuine human rights records, such as Sweden and Canada. For example, it's beyond hypocrisy, though you can call it whataboutism, that the US accused China of committing genocide in Xinjiang while arming Israel to the teeth so it can bomb Gaza back to the Stone Age. That's not just whataboutism – Washington is asking for it. But if Beijing is criticised by Canada or Sweden over Xinjiang, it's a bit different as they are more disinterested and carry more moral force. Or take an example that the article itself cited: "On March 25, 2024, the US embassy in Budapest took aim at Hungary. In a video posted to Facebook, embassy officials decried the country's government for continuing to purchase Russian oil and gas when most of Europe was weaning itself off Moscow. 'The Hungarian government has chosen to augment its reliance on Russian energy ... at any expense,' the video declared. 'Only the Hungarian political leadership has decided to keep the country dependent on Russian energy.'" It continues: "A little more than a month later, Hungary fired back. It did so not by addressing the substance of Washington's complaint, or by arguing that there was nothing wrong

with buying gas from Russia. Instead, it criticised the United States. 'Who was the number one supplier of uranium [to] the United States last year?' Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Szijjarto indignantly asked. 'Russia.' Americans had spent 'more than \$1 billion' on Russian uranium in 2023, he continued. And yet 'they are putting pressure on us not to buy fuel from there.' Actually I watched that video clip of Szijjarto who was attending an event, if memory serves, at Chatham House, also known as the Royal Institute of International Affairs, in London. I don't see anything wrong with Szijjarto's rebuttal by pointing out the hypocrisy of the US still buying much-needed uranium from Russia. The scholarly pair think Szijjarto's proper response should have been to explain why Hungary still insisted on buying oil and gas from Russia. Well, just because you criticise me doesn't mean I must respond to the exact points you made if there is a more effective way to tell you to go away and mind your own business. Besides buying uranium from Russia, the US also has plenty of oil and gas which its energy firms have been busy selling to Europe at inflated prices in its hour of need. I don't think pointing that out is whataboutism either. That's called providing much-needed context to hypocritical US criticism. But Szijjarto's rebuttal was actually less about the US, more about the European Union. While criticising Hungary – and India and China – for buying energy from Russia, EU countries are still importing massive amounts of Russian natural gas. But it was necessary, Brussels said, because EU countries couldn't just cut off Russian gas and let their own population freeze in winter. No, they couldn't. EU leaders have been doing the right thing. But how about getting down from your high horse and shutting the hell up? Maybe we should call it howaboutism, not whataboutism. "At first glance, it may seem as if whataboutism is a weak way to respond to critiques," the two scholars wrote. "After all, it has long been considered a logical fallacy: two wrongs do not make a right. And the

US government has hardly been chastened. American officials routinely, continuously, and openly condemn foreign governments, friends and foes alike." No, two wrongs don't make a right, but that's also relative. If my gangster neighbour has been burying bodies in his backyard, I might think it amiss for him to criticise me for not mowing my lawn. The article claims further: "Allied populations become less supportive of joining American-led condemnations or sanctions. These findings were true whether whataboutism was deployed by US adversaries or allies. The tactic, in other words, is a valuable tool for any states looking to challenge American policies and negate Washington's narratives." I don't know. Maybe most people without a PhD in political or social science just have more common sense and better judgment than self-indoctrinated scholars working in ideologically compromised social sciences. By now, many people realise American criticism, sometimes even demoralisation, is only a prelude to more aggressive actions from Washington such as sanctions, subversions and even outright military actions, including invasions. From the Mexican war and the colonisation of the Philippines to the invasion of Iraq and the ongoing economic war against Cuba and Venezuela, it has long been Washington's modus operandi. Whataboutism is itself a problematic term. It was mostly cited by American critics during the Cold War against the Soviet Union, which usually responded to American criticism by pointing out US hypocrisy and shortcomings. Maybe it's time to retire the term altogether. Just because you label it whataboutism doesn't mean it's invalid or pointless, or isn't providing much needed context and background. Be that as it may, here's an effective way to get around the charge of whataboutism. It's too passive. Why wait for Washington to attack you before rebutting? You should learn from the Americans and criticise their state and society first whenever you see something is amiss. Let them respond with whataboutism.



## Briefs

## PM Shehbaz reiterates resolve to...

FROM PAGE 01  
Furthermore, at least 14 brave sons of soil, including 10 security forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), were martyred in clearance operations, wherein at least 21 militants were neutralised. The recent bloodshed has resulted in a strong reaction from both the federal and provincial governments with PM Shehbaz ruling out dialogue and a "soft approach" in dealing with the enemy. Terming the incidents "tragic and barbaric" today, the prime minister said all terrorist organisations, the "Khawarij" and facilitators hatched the terror plot which resulted in martyrdom of innocent civilians and security personnel. "The entire nation is grieved by the recent tragic incident occurred in Balochistan. Khawarij who shed the blood of innocent people will be crushed through joint efforts of the nation and the valiant forces of Pakistan," he said. Balochistan is an important and beautiful province of Pakistan, the premier noted, saying that all obstacles in its path to development and prosperity will be removed for good. PM Shehbaz noted that terrorism had reared its head again after 2018, reiterating the government's determination to crush those involved in the ghastly bloodshed. Expressing his great trust in the professional capabilities of the armed and civilian forces, he said under the guidance of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, and with full cooperation from the federal government and the leadership of Balochistan, terrorism will be rooted out.

## Faizabad sit-in commission...

FROM PAGE 01  
oath to declaration. The protesters demanded the resignation of the then-Minister for Law and Justice Zahid Hamid to "protect the identity of the country". As a result of the protest, the then PML-N government had to sack its law minister Zahid Hamid. The Supreme Court had taken suo motu notice of the sit-in on November 21, 2017. The commission in its report said that the common perception was that the sit-in was aimed at destabilising then federal government. However, then-prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, interior minister Ahsan Iqbal, then-Punjab chief minister - incumbent Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif maintained opposite views regarding a conspiracy against the government, the report revealed. Zahid Hamid, who was serving as law minister in 2017 and then director general of IB Aftab Sultan had also similar views, it added. The commission also sent a questionnaire to former ISI chief Faiz Hameed. When asked if a state institution was involved in helping stage the Faizabad sit-in, he said that there was no evidence of institutions' role in the sit-in. Meanwhile, the report stated that the inquiry commission faced challenges in obtaining records from relevant departments regarding the sit-in.

## Imran fears PM may...

FROM PAGE 01  
government cooperation to end Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorism. "Terrorism is destroying the country. How can I not condemn it?" he said. "Who is responsible for stopping terrorism in Balochistan and the riverine areas?" He suggested that terrorism in Balochistan would end only when representatives of the Baloch people were included in decision-making. "The Baloch are turning against the country, which is very dangerous for Pakistan. This blame falls entirely on the establishment." Khan expressed frustration over his unfulfilled plans to introduce electronic voting machines (EVMs), blaming former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and PPP for blocking the initiative.



# President confers Hilal-i-Imtiaz upon Olympic hero Arshad Nadeem

## Announces Rs 100 million reward for the Olympic Gold Medallist

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Hilal-i-Imtiaz upon Mr Arshad Nadeem for the Olympic Gold Medallist in recognition of his outstanding performance in Men's Javelin Throw in the Paris Olympics 2024. The President also announced a Rs 100 million reward from his side for the athlete. The award was conferred during a special investiture ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Later, the athlete also met with the President. Mr Arshad Nadeem's Coach, Mr Salman Iqbal Butt, Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, Mr Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Director General Pakistan Sports Board, Mr Muhammad Yasir Pirzada, and senior government officials also attended the meeting. While congratulating Mr Arshad Nadeem, President Asif Ali Zardari stated that Arshad Nadeem had made the country proud by setting Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters.

He appreciated his remarkable achievement, sheer hard work, and dedication that not only elevated Pakistan but also inspired countless young athletes across the country. The President said that Pakistan needed to promote other sports, especially the Singles. He remarked that children of sportsmen should be granted scholarships, saying that he would ask the Sindh Government to contribute Rs 250 million to Pakistan Sports Board's Endowment Fund for the welfare of athletes. The President said that Mr Arshad Nadeem's exemplary triumph encouraged our youngsters to break barriers and make their mark in the field of sports at the international level. He expressed the hope that the athlete would continue to win laurels for the country in future. Mr Arshad Nadeem thanked the President for conferring Hilal-i-Imtiaz and resolved to break the world record for the Javelin throw event. He also thanked his family and the nation for their prayers and wishes. The President also appreciated the contributions of the athlete's coach, Salman Iqbal Butt, for his guidance and contributions to Arshad's success.

## First medals up for grabs as action begins at Paris Paralympics

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) president Andrew Parsons told the athletes and spectators he hoped for an "inclusion revolution", before Macron officially declared the Games open

PARIS: Medals are up for grabs in track cycling, swimming, table tennis and taekwondo when the action begins on Thursday at the Paris Paralympics, which opened in a colourful and hope-filled ceremony ahead of 11 days of competition. The action also begins in sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, badminton, archery, goalball - a form of football for the visually impaired - and boccia, a version of bowls. French President Emmanuel Macron declared the Games open on Wednesday during a ceremony in a balmy Place de la Concorde in central Paris - the first time a Paralympic opening ceremony has taken place away from the main stadium. The 4,400 competitors from 168 delegations paraded into the arena as the sun set with host nation France entering last to a standing ovation from 30,000 spectators. The fine weather was in sharp contrast to the heavy rain which fell throughout the Olympic opening ceremony on July 26. International Paralympic Committee (IPC) president Andrew Parsons told the athletes and spectators he hoped for an "inclusion revolution", before Macron officially declared the Games open.

The Paralympic flag was carried into the square by John McFall, a British Paralympic sprinter who has been selected by the European Space Agency to be the first 'parastronaut'. French Olympian Florent Manaudou brought the flame into the arena to complete the four-day torch relay. Five French Paralympians, including 2020 gold medalists Alexis Hanquiquant and Nantenin Keita, lit the already-ionic cauldron in the Tuileries Gardens. Of the 35 Olympic venues, 18 will be used for the Paralympics including the ornate Grand Palais and the Stade de France. Ticket sales had been sluggish for the Paralympics, which run until September 8, but they have accelerated since the Olympics and organisers say more than two million of the 2.5 million available have been sold, with several venues sold out. Riding the wave of their Olympic team's success, host nation France are aiming for a substantial improvement on the 11 golds

in 2021, which left them 14th in the medals table. Paralympic powerhouses China dominated the last Paralympics in Tokyo with 96 golds and have again sent a strong delegation. Ukraine, traditionally one of the top medal-winning nations at the Paralympics, have sent 140 athletes to compete in 17 sports despite the challenges they face in preparing as the war against Russian forces rages at home. A total of 96 athletes from Russia and Belarus will compete under a neutral banner but are banned from ceremonies because of the invasion of Ukraine. American above-the-knee amputee sprinter/high jumper Ezra Frech, who is 19, has been tipped as a potential new star at these Games. Away from the track, more established names go in search of glory. Iranian sitting volleyball legend Morteza Mehrzad, who stands 8ft 1in (2.46m) tall, will attempt to take gold again. Beatrice 'Bebe' Vio, the Italian fencer who had all four limbs amputated when she contracted meningitis at the age of 11, is aiming for a third Paralympic Games gold.

## Jacob Oram returns to Black Caps as bowling coach

Oram will begin his role prior to the start of Black Caps' three-Test series against India in October

AUCKLAND: Former all-rounder Jacob Oram has succeeded Shane Jurgensen as the bowling coach for the New Zealand men's cricket team. Oram will begin his role prior to the start of Black Caps' two-Test series against Sri Lanka. The ex-player of New Zealand is very excited to contribute his skills for this role. "I'm really excited to have the opportunity to be involved with the Blackcaps again," Oram said. "To be back involved with a team that means so much to me and has been a big part of my life is a real honour," Oram said. Earlier, the 46-year-old has worked with the Black Caps as bowling coach during last year's Test tour of Bangladesh. Additionally, he was the coach for the side in the T20I series against Australia and the T20 World Cup earlier this year. In this regard, the right-arm medium fast bowler further added that the recent opportunities have given him a great insight about the team's current standing and he's excited to continue further in the forthcoming seasons. Meanwhile, the all-rounder will be working with some new faces, including the pace duo Ben Sears and Will O'Rourke. The long-limbed bowler, difficult for batters to face, made his coaching debut in 2014 with New Zealand A and later worked as the bowling coach for the New Zealand Women's team in 2018. Moreover, he acted as the head coach of Central Hinds last summer, leading the team to the Super Smash final. Oram has also been an assistant coach in the Abu Dhabi T10 and bowling coach of MI Cape Town in the SA20. - Agencies

## Palestine ambassador leaves Pakistan with a heavy heart

FROM PAGE 01  
Palestinian people has been nothing short of inspiring. This solidarity has provided us with hope and strength in our ongoing struggle for freedom, justice, and peace.

Thank you, Pakistan, for your kindness, your hospitality, and your unwavering support. May our nations continue to thrive in peace and unity.

## BLA involved in missing...

FROM PAGE 01  
registered in April 2024. He has been found involved in the recent suicide attack on an FC camp in Bela. The BLA has been involved in politics of missing persons, achieving nefarious interests. Earlier, a resident of Turbat, Karim Jan, was reported missing on May 25, 2022 and he was neutralised in the Gwadar attack for his involvement in terrorist activities. Imtiaz Ahmed, son of Raza Ahmed, was among the missing persons. Actually, he was killed in security forces' operation. Elements involved in the politics of missing persons on the agenda of foreign anti-state elements are creating anarchy and lawlessness. The future of Baloch nationals and youth is at stake due to terrorists' organisations' active involvement in Balochistan.

## Pak invites Indian PM Modi...

FROM PAGE 01  
The official confirmation regarding Islamabad's invitations to the heads of the SCO member states came two days after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan would certainly invite PM Modi to the regional summit. Asif also said the host country could not pick and choose about inviting the heads of state, adding that not extending an invitation to any member state was inappropriate and the SCO would not accept any such move by any host member state. Earlier this week, the Indian MEA had denied the media reports suggesting that PM Modi would not attend the upcoming SCO summit in Pakistan and urged media outlets to refrain from speculating on the matter. The MEA's statement emphasised India's position that no official decision had been made regarding the prime minister's participation in the SCO meeting in Pakistan. The South Asian nations have a history of strained ties, particularly due to the longstanding Kashmir dispute. The FO spokesperson said Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory. She said UNSC resolutions clearly state that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute shall be made in accordance with the will of the people through a UN-supervised plebiscite.

## Shaheen Afridi dropped from second Bangladesh Test

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi has been dropped from the second Test against Bangladesh scheduled to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from August 30. The hosts announced their 12-member squad for the second Test which included spinner Abrar Ahmed and left-arm pacer Mir Hamza. Shaheen has only bagged 16 wickets in 10 innings since his comeback from knee injury in July 2023. "Shaheen's missed out this game," Pakistan's red-ball coach Jason Gillespie said. "We've had a good conversation with him, and he fully understands and appreciates the thinking behind it. Shaheen's been given some feedback. He's working on some things with his bowling to be as effective as he possibly can be. He's working really well with Azhar Mahmood. We want to see Shaheen at his best because we've got a lot of cricket in all formats and Shaheen's going to play a really big role in that." "He is playing three formats for Pakistan. He also recently became father and we want him to spend some time with his family," he added. Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Abrar Ahmed, Mohammad Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Abdullah Shafique, Naseem Shah, Khuram Shehzad.

## Australia's Pucovski set to retire

SYDNEY: Australian cricketer Will Pucovski's career has reportedly come to an unfortunate early end due to medical reasons. According to Nine News, the 26-year-old will retire following a recommendation from a panel of medical experts. Pucovski has endured a series of head injuries, with the latest concussion in March proving to be the final straw. However, it is not just concussions that have led to Pucovski's downfall. A previous medical panel in 2022 found that some of Pucovski's head injuries were "not true concussions" and were more likely related to stress or trauma responses. The former batting prodigy burst into the national spotlight when he was named in the January 2019 Test squad. - Agencies

## Cristiano Ronaldo bags another YouTube record

The Portuguese made his YouTube channel last week with the name "UR - Cristiano"

LONDON: Football star Cristiano Ronaldo opened his YouTube channel with the name "UR - Cristiano" on August 21 and it has been gathering subscribers since then. In just one hour, the 39-year-old's channel gained one million subscribers, becoming the fastest YouTube channel to garner immense reach in a short period. Not just that, in just one week, the Portuguese's channel has gathered 50 million subscribers, becoming the fastest YouTube channel to do so. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored a wonderful goal during Al-Nassr's league match on Tuesday night and is just a goal away from completing 900 career goals. As the 39-year-old is edging closer to his retirement, the former Real Madrid player is thinking of his future which seems to lie away from football as he does not aim to become a manager. "It's very difficult to think that I will be a manager one day. In my mind, I'm not considering to be the head coach of any football team. I don't even think about it. Probably I see my future doing things out of football," Cristiano Ronaldo told NOW in a recent interview. With his YouTube channel, it seems that Ronaldo will be enjoying his time, once he has retired, by posting content on his channel as he aspires to connect more closely with his fans worldwide. Ronaldo's channel, "UR," promises a rich mix of content, featuring discussions on his greatest passion, football, alongside topics such as family, wellness, nutrition, and business. Viewers can also look forward to engaging in conversations with various guests, adding an extra layer of intrigue and excitement to the channel. With a career decorated with 33 trophies, five UEFA Champions League titles, and a record number of goals and assists, Ronaldo's move to YouTube represents not just a new chapter in his career but a significant expansion of his digital presence. - Agencies

# Defending champions Novak Djokovic, Gauff advance at steamy US Open

Djokovic notched his 90th US Open match victory, becoming the first man to win this many at all four Grand Slams

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Defending champion Novak Djokovic reached the third round of the US Open on Wednesday as Laslo Djere retired in the third set, but said he'll have to do better to win a fifth title on the hard courts of New York. Djokovic was up 6-4, 6-4, 2-0 when Djere pulled the plug on a gritty encounter that saw both men summon the physio to Arthur Ashe Stadium. "It's not what we want to see," Djokovic said. "He's such a good player in these conditions and the second set should have been his, he was 4-2 up. I don't know if (my) winning the second set probably put more burden on him." Djokovic notched his 90th US Open match victory, becoming the first man to win 90 at all four Grand Slams. But it was a battle until the minute Djere called it quits. Djokovic grabbed the first break of the match to take the first set 6-4 after a tense hour then sought treatment for trouble on his right side. Djere, the only player to take a set off Djokovic at last year's US

Open, gained the first break of the second set and with a 4-2 lead had two more break points that he couldn't convert. But Djokovic won the next six games, Djere receiving treatment on his abdomen before Djokovic closed out the second. "Overall it was a big fight - over two hours for two sets," Djokovic said. "I served awful. So you have to grind, you have to grind. I had to rely on my baseline game." The Serbian star, coming off an emotional triumph at Paris Olympics, next faces Australian Popyrin, who he beat at the Australian Open and Wimbledon this year. Women's defending champion Coco Gauff overcame her own struggles on serve to beat 37-year-old Tatjana Maria 6-4, 6-0. It was an uneven performance

from 20-year-old Gauff, who has endured an erratic season since capturing her maiden major in New York. She put just 44 percent of her first serves in play had nine double faults, but the 99th-ranked couldn't capitalize and won the last seven games the win. "I think I played well overall," Gauff said. "I think if I could have served better that first set would have been a lot easier." Djokovic and Gauff missed the worst conditions of a steamy day that saw tournament organizers invoke the extreme weather rule allowing mid-match breaks. Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka, runner-up to Gauff last year, didn't have to take advantage, polishing off Italian Lucia

Bronzetti 6-3, 6-1 in an hour. "I told myself you have to stay focused from the first point to the last point and make sure you're not going to stay here a crazy number of hours," Sabalenka said. Fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev of Germany advanced with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 victory over France's Alexandre Muller. "I am happy to be done in three sets, to have some rest as it is very hot and tough conditions," said Zverev, who said he felt fine but "was at some point very wet." Zverev next faces Argentina's Tomas Etcheverry, whose efforts to stay hydrated backfired during his 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 victory over compatriot Francisco Cerundolo. - Dangerous conditions - "You had to hydrate well, try to take as many salts and hydrates as possible and I overdid it, that's why I ended up vomiting," said Etcheverry, who fired 23 aces to finally seal the win after more than four hours. "It's dangerous not only for the players, but also for the public," he added. Sixth-seeded Russian Andrey Rublev and Czech Jiri Lehecka both battled through five sets to line up a third-round meeting.





## Briefs

Haiti gangs  
'aren't even  
worried'  
by Kenyan  
police

PORTAU-PRINCE: Two months after the first Kenyan police officers arrived in Haiti, little progress has been made against the country's rapacious gangs – and the buildup of an international policing mission appears stalled. With UN backing and funding from the United States, the mission was supposed to bring order to a nation where armed groups control 80 percent of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Yet the Kenyan police – now numbering 400 – and their Haitian counterparts have not recaptured any gang strongholds, with frustration palpable among city residents. "The abuse from the gangs continues, and the bandits aren't even worried," motorcycle taxi driver Watson Laurent, 39, told AFP, adding he had been in favor of the international intervention. "I thought they would restore peace and support our police who were overwhelmed," he said. "I am very concerned. I can't sleep at night because of the explosions." Violence-plagued Haiti was plunged into further turmoil after a coordinated gang uprising in February saw attacks on the international airport and police stations, and led to the resignation of prime minister Ariel Henry. The Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS), which Kenya had stepped up to lead, was already in planning and was finally deployed to help Haiti tackle the soaring insecurity. The first 200 Kenyans arrived in late June, with another 200 in July. But the force has "neither the sufficient personnel nor the equipment to launch real offensive operations against the gangs," Diego Da Rin, Haiti analyst at the NGO International Crisis Group, told AFP. The Kenyans and the Haitian National Police have protected key buildings and facilities in Port-au-Prince, while gangs – accused of rape, murder and kidnapping – have largely held on to their territory. The only major operation that the Kenyan police were involved in was at the end of July, when the 400 Mawozo gang took the town of Ganthier, 28 kilometers (18 miles) east of Port-au-Prince. But ahead of the security forces' arrival, gang members skipped town – only to retake Ganthier once the Kenyan and Haitian police left. Kenyan police have said they have made "significant progress," including helping take back "critical infrastructure, including the airport, from gang control" and opening "roads that have enabled the return of thousands of Haitians earlier displaced." Most of that progress took place before their arrival, said Da Rin. —DNA

Las Vegas  
politician  
jailed for life  
over journalist  
murder

LOS ANGELES: United States, Aug 29 (AFP/AP-P): A Las Vegas politician was jailed for life Wednesday for killing an investigative journalist who wrote critical articles detailing wrongdoing in the department he headed. Telles lay in wait outside the home of longtime reporter Jeff German, and then stabbed him to death, a jury in Clark County, Nevada concluded. "Justice has been served," Clark County prosecutor Steve Wolfson told reporters. "Today's verdict should send a message, and that message is a clear message that any attempts to silence the media or to silence or intimidate a journalist will not be tolerated." The two-week trial had heard how German, a 69-year-old reporter at the Las Vegas Review-Journal, had written an article months before his death describing a toxic environment in the county office that Telles led. The piece, published a month before an election in which Telles was standing to retain his role, detailed complaints of favoritism and allegations that Telles had been involved in an inappropriate relationship with a member of staff. Telles denied the allegations but lost his reelection bid. —APP

World's growing conflicts subverting  
int'l peace & security order: Munir

Ambassador Akram warned that persistent violations of these principles have exposed the world to unprecedented risks, saying that the failure of the multilateral system to address these conflicts underscores the need for a renewed commitment to the core tenets of international cooperation

DNA

NEW YORK: The proliferation of global and regional conflicts like those in Gaza, Ukraine, Africa, South Asia, and the South China Sea, are stark indicators of the erosion of the international peace and security order, Pakistan's as said, as he voiced "deep concern" over the grave challenges confronting the world. Speaking to a group of Fulbright scholars at the Pakistan Mission on Wednesday, he underscored the need for adhering to the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter for ensuring global peace and stability, according to a mission's press release. However, Ambassador Akram warned that persistent violations of these principles have exposed the world to unprecedented risks, saying that the failure of the multilateral system to address these conflicts underscores the need for a renewed commitment to the core tenets of international cooperation. The visiting Fulbright scholars belonging to

different countries, including Pakistan, are studying for their Master's and PhD degrees in different American universities. Discussing the UN Secretary-General initiative of the Summit of the Future (SOTF), which will be held next month, Ambassador Akram said that it aims to build a new global consensus for multilateral action to tackle emerging challenges. However, he cautioned that the UN multilateral system faces inherent structural problems, such as the use of veto power, which have hindered its ability to deliver on its mandate. The Pakistani envoy identified a range of interconnected global challenges, including climate change, the deepening technological divide, unequal access to development finance for developing countries, and the looming threat of nuclear conflict.

He warned that these challenges are darkening the global security landscape and require immediate and coordinated international action. Focusing on South Asia, Ambassador Akram reiterated that the region re-



mains a nuclear flashpoint due to the unresolved dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the need for a just and lasting resolution to this issue to ensure regional peace and stability. He also highlighted the

devastating impact of climate change, pointing to recent disasters such as super floods, extreme heatwaves, and cyclones as evidence of the growing threat. He noted that despite their negligible contribution to global emis-

sions, developing countries like Pakistan are the worst affected by the consequences of climate change, which are largely driven by the actions of industrialized nations. He called on developed countries to recognize the global nature of climate threats and to demonstrate greater political will in addressing this challenge. The Ambassador criticized the insufficient financial commitments made by developed countries for climate adaptation and mitigation. He argued that the provision of \$100 billion in funding falls far short of the \$1 trillion needed to adequately deal with the crisis. Ambassador Akram expressed concern over the rising poverty and underdevelopment in many developing countries. He revealed that approximately 150 million people have recently fallen back into poverty. While acknowledging China's success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty, he pointed out that other developing nations have been severely impacted by global supply chain disruptions, rising food and fuel prices, and crippling debt burdens. He emphasized that 65%

of the resources in the developing world are currently spent on debt repayments, at the expense of critical development needs. On technology, Ambassador Akram observed that while technological advancements, particularly in Artificial Intelligence (AI), are progressing at an astonishing pace, they are also exacerbating the global knowledge divide.

He warned that technology has become a new arena for competition among major powers, often to the detriment of developing nations.

In conclusion, Ambassador Akram urged the youth to engage more actively with global issues and to propose innovative solutions as they represent the future of international leadership. He also provided the scholars with an overview of the evolution of the international system through various phases.

The session concluded with a question-and-answer session during which the scholars engaged with Ambassador Akram on a range of topics related to global peace, security, and development issues.

PN Ship Hunain visits Oman,  
participates in bilateral exercise

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN, during maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan visited Salalah, Oman and participated in bilateral exercise with Ship of Royal Om-

ani Navy. Upon arrival at Salalah port, Pakistan Navy ship was warmly welcomed by Officers of Royal Navy of Oman. During stay at port, various bilateral activities and exchange visits were conducted to share professional knowl-

edge and experience. Upon completion of port call, PNS HUNAIN conducted a sea exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Ship RNOV SADH to enhance interoperability between the two Navies. Pakistan and Oman are maritime neighbours

and frequent visits of dignitaries, port calls by ships, joint exercises and coordinated patrols are regular feature. The visit of PNS HUNAIN will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two navies. PNS HUNAIN is the 3rd

of the 4 PN YARMOOK class ships being constructed at DAMEN Naval Shipyard Romania. The induction ceremony will be held on 6 September at Naval Dockyard. The President of Pakistan will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

12 arrested for  
overcharging in  
ICT's vegetable  
market  
crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad district administration, led by Assistant Commissioner Pothohar Aneeq Anwar on Thursday carried out a significant operation in the vegetable market to curb overpricing. During the operation, 12 shopkeepers were arrested for selling vegetables at prices higher than the official rate list, said the spokesman of ICT administration. According to officials, several vendors were found setting their own prices, leading to arbitrary and inflated rates for customers. In response, the district administration has promised strict action against anyone found violating the official pricing guidelines. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the residents to buy their groceries according to the official rate list and report any instances of overcharging to the authorities. —APP

Norway's  
Princess  
Martha  
Louise to  
wed her  
California  
shaman

OSLO :Norwegian Princess Martha Louise is set to marry American self-proclaimed shaman Durek Verrett on Saturday, a union of two alternative therapy devotees that has raised eyebrows in Norway. Martha Louise, a 52-year-old divorcee, claims to be a clairvoyant who can speak with angels, a gift she has shared – and profited from – in books and courses. Verrett, 49 and from California, calls himself a "sixth-generation shaman" and sells pricey gold medallions that he says save lives. "I'm very spiritual, it's just so nice to be with a person who embraces it," Martha Louise said on Instagram after the couple announced their engagement in June 2022. The pair will tie the knot at a hotel in the hills of Geiranger, a picturesque village on the shores of a fjord on Norway's west coast. Festivities kick off Thursday with a party for the more than 350 guests, including Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria and her husband Prince Daniel. According to Verrett, Saturday's nuptials are actually a renewal of the couple's vows. The spiritual guide, who counts Hollywood celebrities Gwyneth Paltrow and Antonio Banderas among his followers, claims he was a pharaoh in a previous life and Martha Louise was his wife. The couple's eccentricity has ruffled feathers in non-sense Norway, as has their disregard for science and their use of their royal ties for commercial gain. —APP

Danish court  
to rule on  
gun-runner's  
India  
extradition

COPENHAGEN: A court in Denmark is to decide Thursday whether a Danish arms smuggler who air-dropped weapons to Indian villagers in 1995 can be extradited to India for trial. Niels Holck, 62, has admitted to parachuting four tonnes of weapons into the state of West Bengal to help locals fight government authorities. He was the only one of seven smugglers who managed to escape after the Indian Air Force intercepted their returning plane. The others, five Russians and a Briton, were sentenced in Kolkata to life imprisonment in 2000, but all were eventually released. India regards the Dane, also known as Kim Davy, as the mastermind of the operation, which saw the delivery of hundreds of assault rifles, pistols, anti-tank grenades, rocket launchers and thousands of rounds of ammunition. New Delhi has relentlessly pursued attempts to have him stand trial in India, and the affair has been a stumbling block in Danish-Indian relations. —APP

Chinese tech giant  
Huawei posts 34.3%  
rise in first-half sales

BEIJING: Chinese tech giant Huawei said Thursday that sales surged in the first half of the year, even as it struggles under the weight of sanctions that have deprived it of technology from the United States. Shenzhen-based company has for several years been at the centre of an intense technological rivalry between Beijing and Washington, with US officials warning its equipment could be used to spy on behalf of Chinese authorities – allegations it denies. Since 2019, the sanctions have cut Huawei off from global supply chains for technology and US-made components, hampering its production of smartphones at the time. On Thursday it posted sales of \$58.72 billion in January-June, an on-year increase of 34.3 percent. That compares with 3.1 percent growth in the same period last year. It did not break down net profit. Huawei is a private company that is not publicly traded and is therefore not subject to the same obligations as other companies to publish detailed results. The firm's profit margin reached 13.2 percent in the period, down from 15 percent a year earlier, it said. It did not provide other financial details. "We grew our revenue in the first half of 2024 by making the most of opportunities in digitalization, intelligence, and decarbonization," a Huawei spokesperson said. Our consumer and intelligent automotive solution businesses grew rapidly," they said, adding "our ICT infrastructure, cloud, and digital power businesses remained steady." Huawei remains the world's leading equipment manufacturer for 5G, the fifth generation of mobile internet, and has been involved in infrastructure projects in several countries. —Agencies

Swiss govt denounces landmark  
European court climate ruling

GENEVA: The Swiss government on Wednesday denounced a landmark verdict against Switzerland issued by Europe's top rights court, which ruled that the country was not doing enough to tackle climate change. Ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in April made Switzerland the first country ever to be condemned by an international tribunal for not taking sufficient action to tackle the issue. The court found the Swiss state had violated Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the "right to respect for private and family life". The case was brought by the Swiss association Elders for Climate Protection, a group of 2,500 women aged 73 on average. The organisation wants climate protection to be recognised as a human right and said the Swiss authorities' failure to mitigate the effects of climate change was having a negative impact on their lives and health. Switzerland's biggest political party, the hard-right Swiss People's Party, demanded a withdrawal from the Council of Europe after the ruling. And both houses of parliament later voted to spurn the court's decision. The Swiss government discussed the verdict and its implications on Wednesday. The government "is committed to Switzerland's membership of the Council of Europe and to the system of the European Convention on Human Rights", it said in a statement. The council and the convention, "whose fundamental values include the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, remain of great importance to Switzerland". However, like the houses of parliament, the government "is critical of the interpretation" of the convention "with regard to climate protection". The government said it rejected the broad interpretation of the convention by the court, and said case law "must not lead to an extension of the scope" of the convention. "It is also of the opinion that Switzerland meets the climate policy requirements of the ruling." It said the court had not taken into account Switzerland's revised carbon dioxide laws of March 15 this year, in which Bern "defined measures to achieve its 2030 climate targets". Elders for Climate Protection and Greenpeace Switzerland slammed the government's stance, saying they were insisting on "maintaining climate policy that violates human rights". The government "refuses to admit that its arguments have been refuted" by the court verdict and "provides no scientific evidence to justify its position", they said in a joint statement. "So far, Switzerland has not been able to provide concrete figures for its national carbon budget." Switzerland voters approved a law in June aimed at accelerating the development of renewable energies, as part of the country's bid to attain carbon neutrality by 2050. It aims to boost wind and solar power's current minuscule contribution to Switzerland's energy mix and rapidly increase hydro production so the wealthy landlocked country is less dependent on imported electricity. —DNA

## Telegram boss Durov banned from leaving France

The Wall Street Journal added that at one lunch in 2018, Macron – who along with his team was in the past an avid user of Telegram – had suggested it should be headquartered in Paris, but Durov refused.

PARIS: France on Wednesday charged Pavel Durov, the founder and chief of Telegram, with a litany of violations related to the messaging app and banned him from leaving the country while allowing the billionaire to walk free after four days under arrest. Durov, 39, was charged on several counts of failing to curb extremist and illegal content on the popular messaging app following a hearing with investigating magistrates in Paris. Russian-born Durov was arrested at Le Bourget airport outside Paris late Saturday and questioned in subsequent days under arrest by investigators. He was granted conditional release against a bail of five million euros and on the condition he must report to a police station twice a week as well as remain in

France, Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau said in a statement. The charges concern alleged crimes involving an organised group including "complicity in the administration of an online platform to enable an illicit transaction". Durov has also been charged with refusing to share documents demanded by authorities as well as "dissemination in an organized group of images of minors in child pornography" as well as drug trafficking, fraud and money laundering. His lawyer David-Olivier Kaminski said it was "absurd" to suggest Durov could be implicated in any crime committed on the app, adding: "Telegram complies in all respects with European rules concerning digital technology." Separately, Durov is also being investigat-

ed on suspicion of "serious acts of violence" towards one of his children while he and an ex-partner, the boy's mother, were in Paris, a source said. She also filed another complaint against Durov in Switzerland last year. The tech mogul founded Telegram as he was in the process of quitting his native Russia a decade ago. Its growth has been exponential, with the app now reporting more than 900 million users. An enigmatic figure who rarely speaks in public, Durov is a citizen of Russia, France and the United Arab Emirates, where Telegram is based. Forbes magazine estimates his current fortune at \$15.5 billion, though he proudly promotes the virtues of an ascetic life that includes ice baths and not drinking alcohol or coffee. Nu-

merous questions have been raised about the timing and circumstances of Durov's detention, with supporters seeing him as a freedom of speech champion and detractors as a menace who wilfully allowed Telegram to get out of control. Le Monde newspaper reported Wednesday that Durov had met President Emmanuel Macron on several occasions prior to receiving French nationality in 2021, via a special procedure reserved for those deemed to have made a special contribution to France. The Wall Street Journal added that at one lunch in 2018, Macron – who along with his team was in the past an avid user of Telegram – had suggested it should be headquartered in Paris, but Durov refused. According to a source close to the case, confirming

a story first published on the Politico news site, both Pavel Durov and his elder brother Nikolai, a lower-profile figure seen as the mathematical brain behind Telegram, have been wanted by France since March this year. In a post on X to address what he called "false information" concerning the case, Macron said Durov's arrest was "in no way a political decision" and it was "up to the judges to rule". In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the charges were very serious and thus needed "no less serious evidence". Among those voicing support for Durov is fellow tech tycoon and chief executive of X, Elon Musk, who has posted comments under the hashtag #FreePavel. — Agencies



## Briefs

### OIC condemns Israeli crimes in occupation WB

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expressed its strong condemnation of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the cities of Jenin, Tubas and Tulkarem, which resulted in the death of eleven martyrs, the injury of dozens of citizens, and the severe destruction of roads, infrastructure and civilian facilities. The OIC deemed these crimes a continuation of the organized state terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people. The OIC held the Israeli occupation directly responsible for the repercussions of these heinous crimes, which require accountability in accordance with the international criminal law, and at the same time, called on the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities, enforce its relevant resolutions, put an end to this ongoing Israeli terrorism throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and provide protection for the Palestinian people. - Agencies

### Hearing of 190m pounds reference adjourned

#### COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The hearing of 190 million pounds reference against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi was postponed until tomorrow (Friday). At this stage of the hearing, the defense lawyers are cross-examining the final witness in the reference. Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana conducted the hearing. During the hearing, the PTI founder approached the rostrum twice and he complained about the restriction of lawyers, family members, and media representatives to reach him. He also complained about not being allowed to speak with his sons residing abroad, pressing the judge to ask Deputy Superintendent Tahir Shah for a response. He requested that a specific day and time be set each week for him to speak with his sons. PTI founder's lawyers, Usman and Zaheer Abbas, cross-examined the investigation officer. The hearing on the bail application for Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in the new Toshakhana reference will also be held on Friday.

### Floods in Indian state kill 28

GUJRAT: At least 28 people have died and more than 24,000 have been relocated in the western Indian state of Gujarat since Sunday after heavy rains led to massive flooding. Several rivers and reservoirs are overflowing as water levels have crossed the danger mark, officials said. The Indian army and national disaster response teams are carrying out relief and rescue operations in the worst-hit areas. The state is on high alert as the weather department has predicted heavy rains to continue over the next few days. People cross a flooded street after heavy rains in Ahmedabad. Gujarat regularly witnesses severe floods during the monsoon season - in 2017, more than 200 people died in floods triggered by unrelenting rain. According to a government report, many parts of Gujarat are vulnerable to floods because major rivers "pass through a wide stretch of the very flat terrain before reaching the sea". Photos showed flooded streets and overflowing rivers. In some places, stranded people had to be rescued in helicopters. Transport services have been disrupted in several parts and as many as 48 trains in the state were cancelled on Wednesday. Villages and towns in the Saurashtra region have been worst-affected as they received non-stop rain for nearly 48 hours. - Agencies

# Fighting rages in Gaza as Palestinians hope for a pause

On Thursday, Israeli forces continued to bombard areas across the Gaza Strip in their genocidal battle against Hamas. Palestinian health officials said Israeli military strikes have so far killed at least 20 people

#### NEWS DESK

CAIRO/GAZA: Palestinians in Gaza were waiting on Thursday to see if there would be a pause in fighting to allow a polio vaccination campaign to begin, as the conflict raged across the besieged enclave, killing at least 20 people. The United Nations is preparing to vaccinate an estimated 640,000 children in Gaza, where the World Health Organization confirmed on Aug. 23 that at least one baby has been paralyzed by the type 2 poliovirus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years. The UN, which called for a humanitarian truce earlier this month, hopes to begin the vaccination campaign on Sept. 1, said Juliette Touma, communications director of UNRWA, the UN Palestinian refugee agency. The World Health Organization named the baby as Abdul-Rahman Abu Al-Jidyen. He will turn one year old on Sept. 1. His mother Nivin Abu Al-Jidyen said she feared for her son after she was told by health officials they could do little to help him. "I was shocked that my son got this disease amid the war and the closure of border crossings, under these conditions and lack of medicine for him, it's a shock. Would he remain like this?" Abu Al-Jidyen said on Thursday. "He is my only baby boy. It's his right to travel and be treated; it's his right to walk, run and move like before...It is unfair that he stays thrown in the tent without care or attention," she said from a tent in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. At Nasser Hospital, in the southern city of Khan Younis, Umm Eliane Baker fears

## Death toll rises as Israeli WB raids enter second day

TULKAREM: The death toll climbed Thursday as Israel pressed a large-scale military operation in the occupied West Bank for a second day, despite UN concerns it is "fueling an already explosive situation." The operation was launched as violence raged on in the other main Palestinian territory, the Gaza Strip, which has been devastated by war since Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attacks on Israel. Israel began coordinated raids in the northern West Bank cities of Jenin, Tubas and Tulkarem early on Wednesday, in what the military called a "counter-terrorism" operation. Columns of Israeli armored vehicles backed by troops and warplanes were sent in before soldiers encircled refugee camps in Tubas and Tulkarem, as well as Jenin, and exchanged fire with Palestinian militants. The army said it killed five militants in Tulkarem on Thursday, bringing to 14 the overall death toll since the launch of the West Bank operation. "Following exchanges of fire, the forces eliminated five terrorists who had hidden inside a mosque" in Tulkarem, the military said. Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad confirmed the death of Muhammad Jabber, also known as Abu Shujaa, its commander in the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem. The violence has caused significant destruction, especially in Tulkarem, whose governor described the raids as "unprecedented" and a "dangerous signal." AFPV footage showed bulldozers ripping up the asphalt from streets in the city. Widespread damage was reported to infrastructure, including to water and sewage networks. The Palestinian health ministry said 12 Palestinians were killed on the first day of the operation. Witnesses said the Israeli forces had withdrawn from Al-Farra refugee camp in Tubas where several Palestinians were killed on Wednesday. An AFP journalist said clashes were taking place in Jenin, where a drone was seen flying overhead. Another said Israeli soldiers were operating in Tulkarem. The Palestinian Prisoners' Club said at least 45 people had been arrested in the West Bank since the start of the Israeli operation. The United Nations expressed concerns about the situation. UN chief Antonio Guterres, in a statement, called for an "immediate cessation of these operations." He condemned the use of air strikes on civilian targets and "the loss of lives, including of children." "These dangerous developments are fueling an already explosive situation in the occupied West Bank and further undermining the Palestinian Authority," the UN statement said. - Agencies

her 19-month-old daughter may be vulnerable to polio due to ill health brought on by malnutrition. She hopes her baby will be vaccinated soon, but said she is worried about moving safely in an area where there have been repeated Israeli strikes. "I cannot walk in the street and get bombed, or have something happen to my daughter, or have a targeted (attack). I need a truce, a ceasefire so I can give my daughter this injection (vaccine)," she said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week denied media reports Israel was preparing for a generalized humanitarian truce, saying that a more limited plan had been presented. "These are not pauses in the fighting to administer polio vaccines but only the allocation of certain places in the Gaza Strip," he said in a statement. Senior Hamas official Izzat El-Reshiq reiterated the group's support for the UN and international organizations' initiative for an urgent humanitarian truce across the enclave to allow the polio vaccination campaign. He described Netanyahu's statement as an attempt to thwart the process by refusing the UN call. On Thursday, Israeli forces continued to bombard areas across the Gaza Strip in their battle against Hamas-led militants. Palestinian health officials said Israeli military strikes have so far killed at least 20 people. One strike on a house in Gaza City killed eight Palestinians, including children, they said, while three others were killed when an Israeli missile hit a motorcycle in Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

## Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman criticises government

The leader emphasises the government's failure to address public issues amid economic challenges

#### ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has said that 'unlike Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, won't be granted an airift in the face of turmoil.' Naeem criticised the government, comparing the situation in Pakistan to that of Bangladesh. He stressed that while they do not wish for chaos, they will hold the government accountable on public issues. Sheikh Hasina, resigned as Bangladesh's prime minister and fled the country earlier this month following weeks of anti-government protests organised by students. Naeem further claimed that despite a recent agreement with the government, Jamaat-e-Islami continued to apply pressure, resulting in a reduction in electricity costs in one province. He alleged that political families and international power producers (IPPs) have benefited at the expense of the public, and urged the government to end capacity payments to these entities to be taken seriously by global stakeholders.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Mitsuhiro Wada, ambassador of Japan at parliament house. - DNA

## PIA's privatisation to be completed by October 1

#### MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) privatisation process will be completed by October 1, Privatisation Commission Secretary Usman Akhtar Bajwa on Thursday told Senate Standing Committee on Privatisation. PIA began to be unprofitable in 2011, requiring government subsidies. By the end of 2016, the national flag carrier was saddled with \$3 billion in debt. At the end of 2018, the airline was burdened with \$3.3bn in debt, up from \$2.97bn the year before. Government bailouts were required for the carrier's continued operation. Last year in June, the then-government had agreed to overhaul loss-making state-owned enterprises, including PIA, under a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$3 billion bailout. But in February 2024 - right before the general elections - the election commission had asked the then-caretaker administration to "refrain" from finalising the deal. In April, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurang-zeb stated that the process of privatising PIA will be finalised by the end of June or early July. During today's session of the Senate Standing Committee on Privatisation, chairman Talal Chaudhry asked the secretary the reason for extending the date for the airlines' privatisation process once again, inquiring if the date would exceed October 1.

## Indonesia, Australia bolster defense ties

JAKARTA: Indonesia and Australia signed a defense agreement on Thursday, cementing closer ties as Prabowo Subianto prepares to take office as Indonesia's next president in October. Subianto, who is serving as defense minister under outgoing President Joko Widodo's administration, signed the Defense Cooperation Agreement with Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles at Indonesia's National Military Academy in Magelang, Central Java. The new pact includes provisions allowing Australian and Indonesian defense forces to operate from each other's countries. "We have signed this defense cooperation agreement, which is a historic milestone ... to increase our cooperation and help each other address various security threats and promote peace. - Agencies

# Govt vows to enhance private sector investment

Finance Minister chairs review meeting with JV, investment companies

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday chaired a review meeting with representatives from Joint Venture Investment Companies, including Pak-Brunei Investment Company Limited (PBICL) and Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company (SPI&AIC). The meeting centred on evaluating the progress, challenges, and future directions of these companies, said a press release issued here on Monday. The meeting was attended by senior leadership from both companies, including Ms. Dk Noor ul Hayati Binti Pg Julaihi, Chairman PBICL, Mr. Sultan M. Hassan Abdulrauf, Chairman SPI&AIC, and senior officers from the Finance Division. CEO PBICL gave a brief overview of the portfolio of the company and its major initiatives in Pakistan. He apprised the Minister about the role played by PBICL in promoting economic cooperation between Pakistan and Brunei by facilitating investments in Industry and Agricultural sectors, through financial services, real estate, and SME's support, and how it has contributed to significant advancements in these areas, fostering bilateral trade and economic stability. Similarly, the CEO of Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company (SPI&AIC), also gave a presentation

about the major development initiatives of the company in the country for promoting Islamic finance, food security, digital finance, trade, and agriculture and livestock.

The meeting also discussed various aspects of the operations of these companies, including investment strategies, performance metrics, and key impediments affecting their growth. Both companies presented their achievements and challenges, highlighting areas that require policy support to overcome obstacles in their operational landscape.

The discussion also focused on potential areas for future investments and collaborations through more Government-to-Government initiatives in order to support priority sectors. The Finance Minister appreciated both companies and specifically applauded the implementation strategies of KSA's Vision 2030 for achieving their targets within a few years, and stressed that Pakistan is keen on learning those strategies. Senator Aurangzeb also expressed the Government's unwavering commitment to creating an enabling environment for private sector investment, recognizing the critical role that joint venture companies like PBICL and SPI&AIC could play in driving economic growth.

He underscored the importance of these ventures in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). In the end, the Minister reaffirmed that the government is keen on introducing policy measures that will streamline investment processes, and provide incentives for foreign investors.

# KP Governor says provincial government has lost its writ

Federal govt must call an All Parties Conference on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's situation: K-P Governor Faisal Karim Kundi

#### SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has stated that the provincial government has lost its writ. Speaking to the media after visiting Iqbal Academy Pakistan in Lahore, Kundi said, "We cannot change our neighbours, but we can improve the situation. The federal government must call an All Parties Conference (APC) on the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The events of May 9 were acts of treason that should not be compromised on, but after a year in jail, crocodile tears are being shed." He added that the province is currently in dire conditions, grappling with terrorism and extremism, and attacks on

the army and police are occurring. "The government's authority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has ceased. We handed over a peaceful province to the PTI in 2013, but they have since restored the killers of APS children." Kundi further criticised the PTI government, alleging its primary objective is looting, with even its own ministers speaking about corruption, and claimed that the Chief Minister is afraid of provincial assembly sessions. Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has recently seen an uptick in violence, including target killings and militant attacks. Earlier on Monday, a motorcycle-borne bomb attack in Razmak subdivision of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district killed at least four people and injured eight others. Addressing a Cabinet Meeting called over the overall security and lawn and order situation in the country, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the government's resolve to end terrorism in Pakistan, promising to provide the military with all necessary resources to combat the threat. The premier declared, "There is no room for terrorism. The time has come to end it. We will provide the military with whatever resources it needs."