



# Islamabad POST

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**Winning Euros with Portugal is 'equivalent to a World Cup' 2024**

Detailed News On Page-06

**90% of Gaza cease-fire deal settled**

Detailed News On Page-07



**No one will be allowed to seal Islamabad**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Major relief for government**

## SC unanimously restores NAB Amendment Bill

The verdict said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan couldn't prove that the NAB Amendment Bill was unconstitutional

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday restored the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Amendment Bill by accepting the appeals of the federal government and others. A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, conducted hearing of the case and delivered verdict by a majority 5-0. The verdict said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan couldn't prove that the NAB Amendment Bill was unconstitutional. The apex court had reserved the verdict on June 6 last. As the Supreme Court heard a set of intra-court appeals against the revocation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law amendments in the last hearing, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa remarked that apparently former prime minister Imran Khan's government also wanted accountability of politicians alone. CJP Isa headed the five-judge bench comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi. Imran Khan, the incarcerated founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), joined the proceedings via video link from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. His request seeking personal appearance in the case remained pending with the apex court. Appearing before the bench, lawyer Farooq H. Naik stated that he had prepared his written submissions. He said he was supporting the note of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. At this, CJP Isa questioned whether he was adopting the arguments of Makhdoom Ali Khan, the former attorney general for Pakistan. Naik responded that the arguments were his own. In the last hearing, Khawaja Haris walked up to

Continued on Page 06

### PTI hopes 'legal relief' for Imran

Toshakhana and Al-Qadir Trust cases do not fall in NAB's jurisdiction anymore, says PTI chairman

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman, Barrister Gohar has said that as per the apex court's ruling regarding the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, the Toshakhana 2.0, along with the Al-Qadir trust case against the party's founding leader Imran Khan has been effectively dismissed. Earlier today, the apex court in its 5-0 unanimous verdict overturned a previous ruling that nullified amendments to the NAB laws, and granted intra-court appeals filed by the federal government and other affected parties. Speaking to the media on Thursday following the NAB case verdict, Barrister Gohar said, "The Toshakhana 2 case has practically ended today. The Al-Qadir Trust case should also be considered finished." He explained that under the new law, cabinet decisions are exempt from prosecution.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the residence of the former PML-N leader Ch. Nisar Ali Khan, to express condolences on the death of his sister. The Prime Minister remained with Ch. Nisar for some time. - DNA

**Deputy PM speaks with UK Lord Chancellor**  
Lord Chancellor Mahmood thanked Deputy Prime Minister

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar spoke with Shabana Mahmood, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice of the United Kingdom. She is the first Muslim woman to hold this position. Deputy Prime Minister Dar congratulated Lord Chancellor Mahmood on her historic appointment, saying that her success was a source of pride for all Muslims and Pakistanis in particular.

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**Defence Day at the GHQ**  
**'Don't let political dissent transform into hatred: COAS**

PM Shehbaz, ministers attend Defence Day ceremony to commemorate sacrifices of fallen heroes during 1965 war

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Asim Munir has advised against turning political viewpoints into hatred, reiterating that the nation will not let "nefarious objectives" weaken national harmony to succeed. He stated this while addressing the Defence and Martyrs Day ceremony at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Friday. The chief of army staff (COAS) said the martyrs sacrifices for the country against terrorists have brought stability to the country and strengthened the national security. "The relation between the armed forces and the nation is of heart,"

the COAS said. "The nation has always strengthened the army, be it the rescue works in the events of natural disasters, foreign hostilities or war against terrorism." The strong bond between the people and the military is a guarantor of the country's enemies' defeat, the army chief said adding that the elements who create a rift between the army and the forces will have to face defeat as always. The ceremony was held to commemorate the sacrifices of fallen heroes during the 1965 war, when the Indian forces crossed the international border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan but the nation foiled nefarious designs of the enemy. The border areas in Lahore,

Continued on Page 06

**In 16 years Islamabad reports first case of polio**

Latest case emerges as crippling disease grips country despite rigorous efforts by authorities

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: As the authorities continue to struggle to wipe out poliovirus from the country, Islamabad on Friday reported its first case of the crippling disease in 16 years, taking Pakistan's tally to 17 this year. Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by virus mainly affecting children under the age of five years, who are malnourished or have weak immunity because of being under-vaccinated or not vaccinated for polio and other childhood diseases.

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**Briefs**

**Nation will never forget sacrifices of martyrs**

Tarar visits to the residence of Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed

ADIL SHAHEEN

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the Pakistani nation was proud of martyrs like Captain Ahmed Badr who selflessly sacrificed their lives in line of duty. The minister said this during his visit to the residence of Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed, where he met with his father Colonel (retd) Badruddin and other relatives.

**Shujaat urges politicians to work jointly**

All the lawmakers should talk about national harmony in the parliament: Ch Shujaat

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has urged all the politicians to give priority to national interests instead of personal benefits. In a statement issued on Friday, the veteran politician said that all the lawmakers should talk about national harmony in the parliament. "It is need of the hour to work jointly for the betterment of this country," said the former prime minister.

**Holiday Notice**

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

**'Don't undermine Gandapur'**

**'Will not spare you': Imran threatens IO, NAB chief**

"Bushra Bibi facing imprisonment due to cases concocted by you," says PTI founder to NAB official

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Friday threatened the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman and investigation officer (IO) with legal action. "My spouse [Bushra Bibi] is facing imprisonment due to cases concocted by you," the deposed prime minister told NAB IO Mohsin Haroon while pointing a finger at him during a hearing of a new Toshakhana reference filed against the detained couple. On September 2, an accountability court in Rawalpindi extended the judicial remand of the PTI founder and his wife in a new Toshakhana reference. The new reference pertains to a case related to a jewellery set gifted to former first lady Bushra by the Saudi crown prince when Imran was the prime minister of the country from 2018 to 2022. During the exchange of words, Imran - who was ousted from the prime minister's office via a no-confidence motion in 2022 - told Haroon that he would not spare them "when he is out of jail".

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**Court bars Sindh govt from purchasing 138 SUVs for ACs**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday barred the provincial government to purchase 138 double-cabin vehicles for Assistant Commissioners (ACs). Following the petition, filed by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Muhammad Farooq, arguing that the purchase of SUVs is unnecessary and a waste of public funds. After hearing the arguments from both sides, the court suspended the implementation of a Sindh government's notification regarding the purchase of 138 double cabin vehicles for ACs. The court in its order asked the provincial government, the chief secretary, the finance secretary, and the board of revenue to

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## LHC declares appointment of Nadra chairman null and void

It is argued in the plea that the caretaker government cannot interfere in permanent policy matters

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) directed the removal of National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) Chairman Lt Gen Munir Afsar on Friday, declaring his appointment null and void. A citizen, Ashba Kamran, had challenged the appointment of Afsar as the chairman in a petition, which was approved by the LHC. Directing for the chairman's removal, Justice Asim Hafeez gave a reserved verdict on Kamran's plea. The illegality committed by way of an unauthorised appointment, by the appointing authority, cannot be concealed, Justice Hafeez said. Hence, the judge in his remarks maintained, the appointment was "declared without requisite 'authority of law'". He also directed to send a copy of the order to the federal cabinet, Ministry of Interior and all the departments concerned. It was contended in the petition that the caretaker government had approved the appointment of a serving army officer by amending the Nadra Ordinance. The caretaker government cannot interfere in permanent policy matters, it argued. The petition pleaded that the high court should quash

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**Govt eliminates vacant posts, bans new purchases**

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government, while implementing austerity measures, has eliminated all vacant posts that have remained unfilled for the past three years. An official notification has been issued by the Ministry of Finance detailing the cuts in expenditure, which also include a ban on creating new positions across all departments of government. In a move to reduce unnecessary government expenditure, the notification further stated that the government has imposed a ban on the purchase of all types of vehicles, machinery, and equipment adding that the citizens seeking medical treatment abroad

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## Governor Sindh visits Martyrs' Memorial in Malir

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited the Martyrs' Memorial here in Malir on the occasion of Defense Day on Friday morning and laid flower wreath. Governor also offered Fateha for the departed souls of the martyrs of Armed forces for their sacrifices. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Kamran Tessori said today the entire nation pays tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives to make our defence impregnable. Martyrs of Motherland are our pride and their sacrifices are a beacon for all of us, said the Governor.—APP

## Change of Guards ceremony held at Mazar-e-Quaid

KARACHI: Change of Guards ceremony was held at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Nation on Defence Day, observed on September 6 (Friday). During the ceremony, Pakistan Air Force Academy - Asghar Khan's armed squad took over the guard duties at the Mazar-e-Quaid. Air Marshal Shihriy Khan was the chief guest at the ceremony. He inspected the parade and lay a floral wreath at the Quaid's shrine. A total of 74 cadets including 13 females of Pakistan Air Force were posted for professional duties at the Mazar. Representatives of all three armed forces, DG Rangers Sindh and Corps Commander Karachi attended the ceremony and laid floral wreaths at the Mazar-e-Quaid.—APP

## Marriage grant released

ABBOTTABAD: Ehtisham-ul-Haq, a resident of Abbottabad on Friday successfully received a long-pending marriage grant from the Federal Benevolent Fund in Islamabad through the efforts of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi. The delay in disbursement led Ehtisham-ul-Haq to lodge a formal complaint with the regional office of the Federal Ombudsman in Abbottabad. Following this, swift action was taken by the office, with notices being issued to the responsible officials. After thorough investigation, the Federal Ombudsman ruled in favor of the complainant, leading to the immediate release of Rs. 50,000 under the marriage grant. Ehtisham-ul-Haq expressed his gratitude to Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi and the Regional Ombudsman Office Advisor-in-Charge Rasheed Ahmed for their timely intervention and resolution of his case. Speaking on the occasion, Rasheed Ahmed reiterated that the Federal Ombudsman office, established in 1983 under a Presidential Ordinance, is committed to addressing public grievances and tackling administrative inefficiencies in both federal and provincial departments. He highlighted the institution's role in ensuring swift and free resolution of complaints, urging citizens to take advantage of the services offered by the Ombudsman's office to address their concerns efficiently.

# Pakistan Navy celebrates defence and Martyrs Day

In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis who repulsed blatant aggression of enemy and foiled its nefarious designs with support of our people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy observed Defence and Martyrs Day to commemorate supreme sacrifices of our Armed Forces, Shuhada, Ghazis and national heroes who stood against the enemy with unparalleled display of unity and tenacity during 1965 Indo-Pak War.

In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis who repulsed blatant aggression of enemy and foiled its nefarious designs with support of our people. The day displays the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland and glorifies the courageous heroes who were meticulous in their planning, undaunted in their action and instilled fear in the hearts of our enemy. The Admiral reiterated that as we commemorate this venerated occasion to honour the feats and sacrifices of our brave sentinels of sea, our Navy stands vigilant and unflinching in its commitment to defend maritime borders and secure our vital sea routes which are the lifeline of our economy. The day dawned with special prayers offered in all naval mosques for preservation of integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. Quran Khawanis were held for Shuhada of the 1965 war.



Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami laid floral wreath at Shuhada's Monument at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, offered Fateha

and interacted with the families of Shuhada. Wreath laying ceremonies and Fateha Khawani were also held at Shuhada's memorials at Field Command Headquarters.

Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at all naval units and establishments wherein Commanding Officers addressed special gatherings of officers and men and

highlighted the significance of the day. All ships and establishments were decorated and illuminated in accordance with naval traditions.

## EOC holds first-ever ulema conference

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) organized the first-ever Ulema Conference in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in constantation with the Muttahida Ulama Board and Department of Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs here on Thursday. The Provincial Minister for Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, and the Provincial Minister for Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs, Sahibzada Muhammad Adnan Qadri, attended the conference as special guests. The event also saw the participation of Special Secretary of Health and EOC Coordinator Abdul Basit, representatives of donor organizations, officials from the Health Department,

and many eminent scholars from various religious sects across the province. Renowned scholars from different sects declared their complete and unwavering support for immunization and polio vaccination to ensure children's better health and protect them from life-long disabilities. They also pledged to play a role in dispelling myths and misconceptions about polio vaccination at the community level. The Minister for Religious Affairs, along with religious scholars, administered polio drops to a child, officially launching the anti-polio campaign. The main objective of organizing this conference was to bring prominent religious scholars from across the province together to seek their endorsement in advocating for polio vaccination, emphasizing its alignment

with Islamic principles of community well-being and health. Addressing the conference, the provincial health minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah said that religious scholars can play a key role in creating awareness among the community and stressed that they should come forward for creating a favorable environment for polio vaccination as the world is awaiting us to eradicate this crippling disease. Referring to existing religious misconceptions which prove to be one of the major stumbling blocks in the vaccination of all eligible children, the health minister emphasized that the Muttahida Ulama Board platform can extend a helping hand to the government in addressing such misconceptions to the community level and pave the way for vaccination of all chil-

dren against this crippling disease. In his address to the conference, provincial minister of Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs Sahibzada Muhammad Adnan Qadri said that as polio eradication is a national emergency, the federal and provincial governments, health department, administrative machinery as well as the law enforcement agencies are actively engaged in the eradication of this crippling disease. He said that all segments of society including the religious fraternity should extend their unflinching support to the government for this national cause. Sahibzada Adnan Qadri emphasized upon the religious scholars that since they have a close contact with people at the community level, therefore they should play their active role in dispelling myths.

## Over 235,697 children from 54 UCs of district Abbottabad to be vaccinated

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Khalid Iqbal Friday officially inaugurated the district's anti-polio campaign for September 2024 by administering polio and Vitamin A drops to children. The campaign will run from 9th to 13th September 2024, targeting children under the age of five across 54 Union Councils (UC) of the district. During the inauguration ceremony, senior officials from the dis-

trict administration and health department were present. After the official launch, Deputy Commissioner Khalid Iqbal chaired a meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee focused on reviewing preparations for the upcoming campaign, including staff training, security arrangements, and the health department's ongoing efforts. It was informed to the committee that the campaign aims to vaccinate more than 235,697 children under five years of age. To achieve this, a total of 1,636 teams have

been formed, including 1,490 mobile teams, 41 transit teams, and 105 fixed teams. During the meeting, District Polio Control Room Coordinator Dr. Atif Saud briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the health department's preparations, ensuring that all necessary materials and training had been provided to the teams. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure that no child is left unvaccinated in Abbottabad. He also directed relevant departments, including educa-

tion, population welfare, and the police, to provide full support to the health teams during the campaign. The police will ensure security throughout the process. Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Khalid Iqbal in a message to the public urged all parents to ensure their children under five receive polio and Vitamin A drops during the campaign. He further instructed the health and information departments to raise awareness through mosque sermons and media outreach to guarantee the success of the vaccination drive.

## Unknown gunmen shoot dead one police rider

ABBOTTABAD: At least one police constable embraced martyrdom and another sustained injury in a shooting incident near Sethi Mosque in Sikandarabad, Abbottabad. According to the police spokesperson, Constable Shahzaib, aged 28, was killed, and Constable Ehtisham, aged 21, was injured during the attack late at night. The martyred officer's body was shifted to Ayub Medical Complex for postmortem, while the injured officer was referred to the hospital for medical treatment. District Police Officer (DPO) Abbottabad visited the hospital to assess the situation and check on the injured officer's condition.—APP

## Defence day observed in Nawabshah

The participants of the rally held banners and placards with slogans such as "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Pak Army Zindabad"

HYDERABAD: Like other parts of the country, Defence Day of Pakistan is celebrated with national enthusiasm in Shaheed Benazirabad district. In this regard, a rally was organized by the Divisional and District Administration of Shaheed Benazirabad, led by Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder, from the DC Office to the Nawabshah Police Club. Speaking to the participants of the rally and media representatives after the rally, Commissioner Syed

Muhammad Sajjad Hyder said that we pay tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the homeland. The brave sons of the nation fought fearlessly against their enemies and wrote a bright chapter in history. He added that on September 6, the Pakistani army inflicted a crushing defeat on the eternal enemy India, writing a new history of bravery and valor. Commissioner further said that on September 6, Defence Day and Martyrs' Day are being celebrated

across the country to pay tribute to the martyrs and their families who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation. The purpose of this day is to pay homage to our heroes. He added that today, we must all pledge to work for national security, progress, and prosperity. Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rashid Bhutto and others also addressed the rally. The participants of the rally held banners and placards with slogans such as "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Pak Army Zindabad". The rally was attended by

Additional Commissioner Subhash Chandar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sumer Laghari, Deputy Director Livestock Dr. Barkat Lakho, District Education Officer Muhammad Suleman Bhutto, Information Officer Sher Muhammad Jamali, Assistant Commissioner Nawabshah Iqbal Ahmed Tunji, Naseem Pirzada, and representatives of education, health, police, revenue, population, social welfare, and social organizations, citizens, and students and teachers of schools in large numbers.

## Four gang members arrested

FAISALABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Faisalabad arrested four accused involved in illegal business of hawala/hundi and currency exchange, here on Friday. According to official sources, the accused were identified as Muhammad Zeeshan Haider, Rizwan Aslam, Muhammad Talha Saeed and Hassan. They were arrested from a site near Lasani Puli, Sargodha road. The raiding team took their cell phones into their custody for forensic audit. The accused were sent behind bars and an investigation has been started.—APP

## DG Rangers pays tribute at Quaid's mausoleum on Defense Day

KARACHI: In connection with the Defence Day, Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh, Major General Azhar Waqas, paid homage to the founder of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, by visiting his mausoleum and laying a wreath. Accompanied by other Rangers officers, Major General Waqas offered Fateha and prayed for the soul of Quaid-e-Azam, said a news release on Friday. On the occasion, the DG Rangers Sindh penned his impressions in the visitor's book.—APP

## KP Minister, religious scholars inaugurate anti polio vaccination drive

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Auqaf, Hajj and Religious Affairs Sahibzada Muhammad Adnan Qadri along with prominent religious scholars of the province had formally kicked off the anti-polio campaign starting from September 9 to vaccinate over 6.425 million children under five years of age in the province. Sahibzada Adnan Qadri said that the first phase of this anti-polio campaign would be carried out in 27 specific districts including Bannu District, North Waziristan, South Waziristan Upper, South Waziristan Lower, Malakand, Swat, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Chitral Lower, Chitral Upper, Bajaur, Kohistan Upper, Kohistan Lower, Abbottabad, Haripur and all the districts of Peshawar, Mardan and Kohat divisions.—APP

## KP govt to develop lakeshore tourism project

PESHAWAR: The Special Assistant to Chief Minister Abdul Karim Tordher has said that the provincial government was committed to facilitating the investors for investment in the province and reiterated the resolve to extend full support for socio-economic development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Chairing a high-level meeting regarding the development of the Lakeshore Tourism Project in the Khanpur area, district Haripur here at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBoIT), he said that the project was of high importance and the government would extend full support to all the relevant departments and private investors to execute the project of significant importance. During the meeting, the forum discussed the development of the Lakeshore Tourism Project in Khanpur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which was in the execution phase, and its master plan had been prepared by the investment group. It was said that the project was aimed to transform Khanpur into a premier tourism destination with high-quality housing facilities. The meeting was informed that the Lakeshore Tourism Project, with a total investment of around eight billion rupees, was set to span 800 Kanal of prime land in Khanpur. This ambitious initiative aimed to create a world-class tourism destination, leveraging the natural beauty and strategic location of Khanpur. Moreover, the project would include various tourism and hospitality components designed to attract both local and international visitors. The meeting focused on the vision for the Lakeshore Tourism Project, emphasizing sustainable development while protecting the natural environment of Khanpur. The stakeholders discussed the significant investment and the potential economic impact on the region. It was said that the project was expected to generate substantial employment opportunities and boost the local economy.—DNA

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

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

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# 'Terrorist safe havens in Afghanistan pose global threat'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent experts at a roundtable discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) expressed concern over the growing nexus between various jihadist organizations operating out of Afghanistan. They highlighted the growing collaboration not only between various jihadist terrorist organizations such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), but also between the jihadist terrorist organizations and Baloch separatist groups. The experts were not optimistic about the Afghan interim administration taking meaningful action against the terrorist groups based in Afghanistan under its watch. The speakers maintained that Afghan Taliban could not be expected to act against their former partners in resistance against foreign troops in Afghanistan unless they get convinced that it is essential for the regime's survival. It was also felt that the Afghan interim administration fears that taking serious action against terrorist groups such as the TTP might create dissension within the Taliban ranks, which could be exploited by the ISKP, an adversary of the Afghan Taliban. The speakers called for a long-term policy



approach towards the Afghan interim administration on the subject of TTP presence in Afghanistan noting that jihad had a long history in Afghanistan, which had led to creation of durable and interlinked jihadist networks. The experts were of the opinion that understanding of sociocultural and religious nuances of Afghanistan was essential for a long-term strategy

for dealing with terrorism emanating from the country. Such an understanding, according to the panellists, needed to take into consideration dichotomies within the Afghan interim administration and the multiple influencing factors at play, including regional geopolitics. The speakers also noted that addressing terrorism in the region would not only require patient

diplomatic engagement with the Afghan interim administration, but also strengthening the legal and institutional structure against terrorism in Pakistan. The participants of the roundtable included President IRS, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, Executive Director Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) Mr Intiaz Gul, Director Religious Engagement Interna-

tional Research Council on Religious Affairs (IRCRA) Mr Tahmeed Jan, Co-Found of Khorasan Diary Mr Ihsanullah Tipu Mehsud, Pakistan's former envoy to Afghanistan Ambassador Arif Ayub, and IRS researchers Aarish U. Khan and Aleena Shah. A large audience including diplomats, academics, researchers, opinion-makers, and students witnessed the lively discussion.

## Policy board to bring progress: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the purpose of forming the policy board is to bring improvement and transparency in the economic planning process of the country with the help of the private sector. The minister said the private sector's participation will significantly improve the Planning Commission's efficiency, and these measures will help stabilize Pakistan's economy. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chaired the first policy board meeting of Planning Commission today in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Secretary Planning, representatives of major private organizations, corporate leaders, and experts from various fields. On this occasion, Federal Minister said the board members will play a key role in preparing the strategic framework as well as making multi-term, mid-term and long-term plans and the government considers the formation of the policy board as an important milestone and through it the goals of sustainable development will be achieved. Ahsan Iqbal added that the government has set up a policy board to ensure the implementation of the Five Ease Framework, Thirteenth Five Year Plan, and Vision 2030. Key areas such as exports, digital development, environment, energy and equity have been prioritized under this framework. He said that the experiences and suggestions of the members of the Policy Board will also help in the formulation of the national budget, and the process will be made more transparent and reliable. Ahsan Iqbal stressed that the board members should express their opinions openly to help improve the planning commission. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that the members of the policy board would assist the government in monitoring the financial affairs and audit of the Planning Commission. The Federal Minister said that the inclusion of Policy Board members will make the Planning Commission a complete think tank which will further improve the development process of Pakistan. He also reiterated that the government welcomes the suggestions of private sector experts and their suggestions will be incorporated in the national development plans. At the end of the meeting, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that in view of the economic situation of Pakistan, there is an urgent need to increase investments and exports in the country. —DNA

## Increasing the Use of Technology Can Enhance Organizational Performances

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Saquib Ahmad, Country Head of SAP Pakistan, Iraq, Bahrain & Afghanistan, stated that increasing the use of technology in Pakistan can significantly enhance the performance of

organizations, which will result in the economic development of the country. He made these remarks during the launch ceremony of the "RISE with SAP" digital transformation tool at Jaffer Brothers Limited (JBL). "By increasing the adoption of technology in Pakistan, organizations can move towards

improved performance," said Saquib. "Our team is fully equipped to meet the needs of JBL. By choosing SAP, Jaffer Brothers can enhance operational processes, improve decision-making, and leverage cutting-edge technologies to pave the way for sustainable growth in a rapidly evolving

business environment." Veagar U Islam, Director of Jaffer Group, emphasized the strategic importance of transitioning to SAP's cloud technology for the company's growth. "Adopting SAP for our business transformation is a crucial decision," he said. "This partnership signifies our commitment to operational excellence, efficiency, and staying at the forefront of industry innovation. Implementing SAP's advanced solutions is a reflection of our dedication to progress, paving the way for a digitally transformed and future-ready organization."

## CASS Honours the Legacy of the Pakistan Air Force

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In celebration of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Day, the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted an engaging guest lecture titled "From the Cockpit: Reflections from the PAF's Past for the Future." The event, held on 5 September 2024, featured Wing Commander Salim Baig Mirza (Retd), a distinguished war veteran and revered fighter pilot, who shared insights into the PAF's illustrious history as a guide for the future. The lecture began with a preamble by Air Commodore Khalid Chishti (Retd) on the 1965 and 1971 wars, which also included an introduction of the guest speaker. He praised the remarkable achievements of Wing Commander Salim (Retd) in aerial combat, which included two confirmed kills, highlighting PAF's motto, "Second to None". Wing Commander Salim (Retd) shared his experiences of the 1965 and 1971 wars. While recounting his kills, he addressed the Indian propaganda that misrepresented the true nature of those events. He highlighted the PAF transformation over the decades under its visionary leadership, evolving into a modern and formidable force distinguished by exceptional courage, training, and professionalism. He also noted the PAF's technological and strategic

edge, which offsets India's numerical superiority. Following his address, an engaging interactive session ensued, where attendees explored the PAF's history and discussed the current and future challenges it faces. The event concluded with closing remarks from Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore, who emphasised the Air Force's crucial role and status as the leadership's preferred choice in contemporary warfare. He noted that all

President further highlighted the ongoing strategic transformation of the PAF under the leadership of Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu. He remarked that the PAF is now prioritising cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure to sustain its combat advantage, especially in light of increased defence spending by neighbouring countries like India. The guest lecture was well-attended by both serving and retired PAF of-



modern-day conflicts are employing the air medium for achieving military objectives. He also mentioned PAF's enduring legacy and steadfast dedication to national security. The

officers, as well as members of civil society and academia. The attendees appreciated the insights and the opportunity to celebrate the PAF's rich heritage.

## Tanveer pays tribute to armed forces on Defence Day

ISLAMABAD: Calling September 6 as a crucial moment in the country's history, Federal Minister for Industries, Production, and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday praised the bravery and sacrifices of the country's armed forces. In a message on Defence Day, the minister said, the day reminds the outstanding accomplishments of the Pakistani forces, who made the defense of the homeland invincible and defeated the enemy on the same day in 1965. "It is imperative that we collectively pay tribute to the sacrifices of our martyrs. We must prioritize the welfare of their families," he added. He said, the country continues to confront the threats of terrorism and the enemy's malicious plots, however added the entire nation would once again defeat the enemy with its unity and faith.—APP

## Enemies focus on Balochistan to weaken Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that hostile forces have focused on Balochistan to weaken Pakistan. He said some countries with immense resources are provoking instability in Balochistan to make CPEC fail. Mian Zahid Hussain said that despite all the security, continued terrorist incidents are alarming, which is sending negative signals. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that enemies want to frustrate China, which should not be allowed. He said that whenever the CPEC project accelerates, terrorism also accelerates, which shows who is pulling the strings of the terrorists. The business leader said that Balochistan is a vital province with which the peace of Pakistan is related, which is being disturbed by the terrorists.

## Chinese delegation calls on Romina Khurshid Alam

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Chinese delegation Friday called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and discussed multiple aspects of their ambitious plan to help Pakistan revolutionise its mass transit system for providing world-class transportation facilities to public while achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals. The delegation, comprising senior-level officials of the Chongqing CRRC Hengton Vehicle Company and Chongqing Public Transport Group Company, PowerChina International and Daewoo Pakistan Express apprised the PM's climate aide of Pakistan Green Transport Project (PGTP), an ambitious initiative that aims at transforming the country's public transport system to become more environmental-friendly and sustainable, a news release said. "Basically set up under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, PGTP is a consortium of Pakistani and Chinese transport companies, working to bring zero-emission, green transport in the country, which would benefit the common man in country, reduce petroleum import bill, ensure optimal utilization of the power generation capacity and above all improve the environmental conditions across the country," said Faisal Ahmed Siddiqui, CEO Daewoo Pakistan Express group, who led the delegation. Sharing further details during the meeting, Siddiqui said that MoU has already been signed among the consortium members at Pakistan Business Conference held in Shenzhen city of China in June 2024 in the presence of Federal Minister for Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan; Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal.—APP

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## Briefs

DC  
Islamabad  
warns PTI  
protesters

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday cautioned PTI protesters travelling to Islamabad on September 8 to strictly adhere to established SOPs and remain within the designated protest zone as any breach of the law or deviation from the allocated area will result in prompt and decisive action. In an exclusive talk on a private news channel, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) has ensured that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad on September 8 will be held peacefully, in line with court orders. The DC has designated the Sangiani area for the protest and has written a letter to the organizers, clearly outlining the boundaries and guidelines for the demonstration. By doing so, the authorities aim to maintain law and order while allowing the protesters to exercise their right to peaceful assembly, he added. DC Nawaz Memon has reiterated that the authorities will not tolerate any disruption to the daily lives of Islamabad's citizens during the PTI protest on September 8. He emphasized that while the protesters have been allowed to assemble in the designated Sangiani area, they must adhere to the established boundaries and guidelines to ensure a peaceful demonstration. —APP

Work on  
FGEHA's  
projects  
being spurred

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday assured the National Assembly of taking steps towards accelerating work on Federal Government Employees Housing Authority's (FGEHA) projects, facing delays for a long time.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Shagufta Jumani and others about the delay in the completion and handing over to allottees of the Residencia Apartments, G-13 and residential plots of F-14, F-15, Bhara Kahu and Park Road projects under the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, the minister regretted the delay in the execution of the housing projects for various reasons. He said it would also be our effort that the landowners get the market price for their land. He said that the projects also faced delays due to pending cases before the courts and there were also land dispute issues. He went on to say that land was vacated for the said projects but payments were not made to the owners of the land. The minister said that all efforts would be made to hand over possession to the allottees as soon as possible. —APP

Defence &  
Martyrs Day  
marked in  
schools

RAWALPINDI: The Defence and Martyrs Day was celebrated in different schools in commemoration of the historic victory of Pakistan Armed Forces against enemy aggression during the 1965 September war. Different activities were organised in various schools and colleges of the city to pay tributes to the nation's martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives while defending the motherland. Special prayers were offered for the stability and peace of the country. Heads of institutions shed light on services of valour soldiers of the armed forces in defending the country. Students were cognised on the strategic and territorial challenges being by Pakistan. They were also informed about the responsibilities and duties of students in making Pakistan a secure and peaceful country. The students presented beautiful tableaux showing their affiliation with the armed forces. In morning assemblies, students also presented speeches and sang national songs. —APP



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Azhar Mazlan, CEO Serena Hotels Global Aziz Boolani and others cutting cake to open Malaysian Food Festival at Islamabad Serena Hotel.—DNA

Returning Pak workers can claim  
unclaimed insurance benefits

The Pakistan EPS Center, led by Director Kim Ki-wook, is offering guidance to workers who have returned to Pakistan after working in South Korea under the Employment Permit System (E9), information shared by the Korean embassy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani workers who have completed their employment in South Korea are missing out on insurance benefits owed to them can claim insurance benefits. Pakistan Employment Permit System (EPS) Center is helping workers recover unclaimed funds, but many are unaware of how to claim these benefits. The Pakistan EPS Center, led by Director Kim Ki-wook, is offering guidance to workers who

have returned to Pakistan after working in South Korea under the Employment Permit System (E9), information shared by the Korean embassy. Many of these workers have completed their maximum stay of four years and ten months, but they have not claimed their insurance benefits. The benefits include 'departure guarantee insurance' and 'return cost insurance.' These benefits, referred to as "dormant insurance," remain unclaimed for several years. Dormant insurance occurs when the policyholder does not collect

the insurance money within three years after the reason for payment arises. The money remains with the insurer, waiting to be claimed. For many returning workers, this is the case for their departure and return expenses. The Pakistan EPS Center is now reaching out to these workers to help them access their unclaimed insurance funds. However, the process has become challenging. Many workers have either changed their contact details or moved, making it difficult for the center to reach them individually.

To address this issue, the EPS Center has partnered with the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) in Pakistan. Together, they have posted the names of workers eligible for dormant insurance on the OEC website. Workers can check their eligibility by visiting the OEC's homepage. If eligible, they can apply for their insurance by sending the necessary documents via registered mail to the Pakistan EPS Center. In addition, workers who have returned from South Korea recently, but have not yet applied

for their insurance, can also apply directly to the insurance provider, Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance. By following the instructions on the OEC website and preparing the required documents, workers can claim their benefits with the help of the Pakistan EPS Center. This initiative by the EPS Center aims to ensure that returning workers do not miss out on the money they are entitled to. However, the workers must act promptly and check their status on the OEC website to claim their insurance funds.

CTP deploy 216 traffic  
wardens to regulate  
traffic on Defence Day

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have deployed 216 traffic wardens to regulate traffic on city roads on Defence Day. City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Benish Fatima, a total of 216 traffic wardens and officers including eight DSPs, 32 senior traffic wardens and traffic assistants were deployed here on Friday. She informed that due to the Defence Day programme at the GHQ, traffic would be diverted from Mall Road and several other chowks to alternate routes. The traffic wardens were instructed to make all-out efforts to regulate traffic on the roads of Saddar particularly Mall road to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow. The citizens were urged to report any suspicious activity immediately to district and military police. The CTO warned that strict legal action would be taken against vehicles and motorcycles without number plates. Ambulances, fire brigades, and other official vehicles would be thoroughly checked to avoid any untoward incident and prevent any misuse of such vehicles for terrorist activity. Through the official social media pages of traffic police and radio station 88.6, the citizens were also being provided with moment-to-moment information about the diversion points and traffic situation, she added. —APP

Pakistanis unite to honor martyrs,  
armed forces on Social media

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan marks the 59th anniversary of the 1965 war, the nation comes together to honor the bravery and sacrifices of its heroes who laid down their lives for the country where digital platforms are seen flooded with gratitude to the valiant martyrs and armed forces who defended the motherland against all odds. As Pakistan commemorates Defence Day, social media platforms have become a hub of activity, with citizens from all walks of life coming together to pay tribute to the country's martyrs and armed forces, a report aired by a private news channel. Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are filled with heartfelt messages, photos, and videos, honoring the bravery and sacrifices of Pakistan's heroes where citizens are sharing stories of martyrs, their families and the armed forces, highlighting their courage and selflessness, said a Whatsapp user. The overwhelming response on social media is a symbol of national unity and solidarity, demonstrating that Pakistanis stand

together in their love and respect for their country's heroes, said a journalist. "Our armed forces are our heroes and we are forever grateful for their bravery and sacrifices. Keep serving our country with honor and valor," said facebook user. "We stand with our armed forces and support them in their efforts to defend our country. Thank you for your service and sacrifices," said a Instagram user while sharing post. "We pay tribute to our brave martyrs and their families who have sacrificed so much for our country. Thank you for your bravery and service," said a celebrity while honoring armed forces on defense day. Defence Day is a celebration of national unity and solidarity. It serves as a reminder that Pakistanis stand together in the face of adversity and that the nation is stronger than ever. The day promotes a sense of patriotism and national pride, inspiring citizens to work towards a brighter future, said a education expert on Twitter.—DNA

Captain Usman hails martyrs'  
spirit as Pakistan Navy's guiding force

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Defense Day, Captain Muhammad Usman representing the Pakistan Navy Friday reaffirmed their unwavering dedication to the nation's prosperity and prestige while paying tribute to the brave soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country. Captain Usman talking to PTV news channel expressed the Pakistan Navy's resolve to follow in their footsteps and harness their talents and energies for the betterment of Pakistan. He said the induction of PNS Babar and PNS Hunain marks a major

milestone in the Pakistan Navy's efforts to modernize its fleet and strengthen its capabilities to counter emerging threats in the maritime domain. Captain Usman further highlighted the capabilities of PNS Hunain, stating, "The vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including a 76mm main gun, 30mm secondary guns, and a missile system". Its advanced radar and electronic warfare systems enable it to detect and engage targets with precision, he added. Additionally, PNS Hunain has a helipad and a hangar, allowing it to support

helicopter operations for search and rescue, medical evacuation, and other tasks. The vessel's versatility and advanced technology make it a valuable asset to the Pakistan Navy's fleet. "We are focusing on training our youngsters with the latest skills and technologies to ensure they are equipped to handle the evolving challenges of modern warfare, he added. Our state-of-the-art training facilities and simulators enable our personnel to hone their skills in a realistic and immersive environment, he mentioned. The Pakistan Navy is dedicated to stay-

ing ahead of the curve and ensuring the safety and security of our nation, he highlighted. Captain Usman also acknowledged the families of the Pakistan Navy personnel, saying, "We recognize the sacrifices made by the families of our brave sailors and officers, who have supported their loved ones with unwavering dedication and pride. "Your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed, and we are grateful for your contributions to our nation's defense", he added. Today, we stand together to honour the spirit of courage and sacrifice that defines the Pakistan Navy, he said.

Posters  
reappear in  
IIOJK hailing  
Pakistan's  
support on  
Defence Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Posters have reappeared across Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Pakistan Defence Day, hailing Pakistan's steadfast support to the Kashmiris' struggle for right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, these posters have been affixed to walls, pillars and poles by various organizations in Srinagar and other areas of occupied territory. The posters proclaim that the Pakistan Army is prepared to take all necessary measures to support the oppressed people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasize that the brave sons of Pakistan are committed to defending Pakistan as well as their Kashmiri brethren. The messages on the posters assert that Pakistan has never abandoned the people of IIOJK and will continue to stand by them in the future. They also convey a message of hope, say that the time is not far away when Kashmir will be freed from the Indian illegal occupation and the Kashmiri people will get their rights.

US Embassy team visits AIOU  
to expand English program

ISLAMABAD: A team from the U.S. Embassy's Regional English Language Office (RELO), part of the Public Diplomacy Section, visited Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to discuss expanding the scope of English language education. During a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the focus was on extending the English Access Program to underdeveloped areas of Pakistan. Dr. Nasir praised the program and expressed the university's commitment to promoting education in remote regions, utilizing all available resources. The delegation, consisting of Dr. Gerald Frank, Country Director Syed Rashid Hussain and Dua Mujeeb, attended a briefing session chaired by Dr. Nasir, where Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan, Chairman of the English Department, provided detailed insights into the department's services, especially the English Access Program. Faculty members, including Dr. Munir Khan, Dr. Saira Maqbool, Dr. Rashida, and Dr. Ubaidullah, along with focal person Dr. Amjad Khan, also participated. Dr. Gerald acknowledged the success of AIOU's collaboration, surpassing that of any other institution, and expressed a desire to further expand the project. The RELO team also visited the English Department and appreciated the successful implementation of the English Access Program in areas such as Attock, Mianwali, and Bhakkar, thanking the department for its efforts.—DNA

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Short-term  
inflation  
eases further  
by 0.15%

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed further decrease of 0.15 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on September 05, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.24 points as compared to 319.73 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 14.07 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed decrease of 0.14 per cent and went up to 310.35 points from last week's 310.80 points. The SPI for consumption group of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.17 percent, 0.15 percent, 0.16 percent and 15 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 (37.25%) items increased, 13 (25.50%) items decreased and 19 (37.25%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included tomatoes (14.54%), chicken (1.55%), wheat flour (1.31%), chilies powder (1.30%), diesel (1.23%), petrol (0.68%), pulse masoor (0.59%), sugar (0.54%), pulse mash (0.49%) and cooking oil 5 litre (0.41%). The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included onions (3.83%), pulse gram (1.65%), garlic (1.38%), LPG (0.90%), cooked daal & cooked beef (0.70%) each, eggs (0.54%), potatoes (0.50%), rice basmati broken (0.34%) and georgette (0.14%).—APP

## Tech firms must play by the rules

IN the span of just a few days, we have witnessed two seismic events in the worlds of technology and geopolitics. Pavel Durov, the founder and CEO of social messaging app Telegram, was taken into custody by French authorities on August 24 after his private jet landed at Le Bourget airport outside Paris. The arrest came as prosecutors indicted Durov and Telegram on charges related to the company's reported failure to comply with laws related to terrorism and child sexual abuse content. Meanwhile, thousands of kilometres away in Brazil, the government took the extraordinary step of restricting access to X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, after its CEO Elon Musk repeatedly refused to comply with court orders to remove several user accounts. Those accounts were deemed to be spreading misinformation and inciting violence by supporters of former president Jair Bolsonaro after his loss in the 2022 election to current President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. These developments might seem like just another couple of chapters in the long-running saga of tech firms against the government. But look closer and you will see that they are part of a much bigger story: the emergence of a new world order in the digital age, where the lines of power and sovereignty are being redrawn in real time. For years, we have lived in a world where a handful of global tech platforms have amassed unprecedented power and influence. They have connected billions of people across borders, reshaped entire industries and even played a role in attempts to topple governments. In many ways, these platforms have become a new kind of sovereign entity with their own rules and values. But now, the nation-state is pushing back. Governments around the world are increasingly asserting their authority over these digital superpowers. They are passing new laws, imposing new regulations and even blocking entire platforms when they are seen as stepping out of line. This is a tug of war for the ages: platforms vs the state, the transnational vs the national, the virtual vs the physical. The stakes could not be higher. At issue is nothing less than the future of the internet, innovation and democracy itself. So what does this brave new world look like? Some people have dubbed it the "splinternet", a fragmenting of the global internet into national or regional shards, each with its own rules and walled gardens. It is where the free flow of information, innovation and ideas across borders grinds to a halt. This bleak prospect should concern us all. If platforms and states continue to disengage from one another, refusing to find common ground or compromise, this vision could well become a reality. But there is another path forward – a better way to balance the competing interests of platforms and states. Call it "platform federalism." In this model, platforms and states engage in a constant negotiation, a never-ending dance of power and compromise. The platforms get to operate globally and innovate at scale, but they agree to play by rules set by the states, cooperating with law enforcement agencies when necessary and respecting national laws and norms. The states, in turn, agree to allow for a certain degree of openness and connectivity, recognising the immense benefits that global platforms can bring.

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## Britain's arms restrictions on Israel

AT the beginning of this week, the British government announced a revoking of 30 export licenses for arms related products to Tel Aviv, explicitly stating that it was their assessment that some of these munitions were being used contrary to international law. The embargo, although far from being comprehensive, was quickly condemned by supporters of Netanyahu's government, who also responded by attempting to frame itself as if it were the "victim", despite over 41,000 people having died in the invasion and carpet bombing of Gaza, and humanitarian conditions deteriorating so severely that some major diseases, such as polio, have resurfaced. Given that the benchmark of expectations from Britain is very low regarding this subject matter, it is a welcome step that some form of action, as symbolic as it may be, has been taken by the government. This was not expected all but a few months ago, given that previously while in opposition, Keir Starmer worked relentlessly to purge criticism of Zionism from his party, supported the destruction of Gaza, and for a great length of time, even opposed a ceasefire. However, upon taking office, his foreign policy has proved far more pragmatic than anticipated. One factor in this is that the Labour Party lost a great deal of Muslim votes in the 2024 election, largely winning due to the incompetence of its opponents, and several independent MPs (including party leader Jeremy Corbyn) even defeated Labour in these communities. Thus, while in government, it is imperative for balance in the Labour Party; to be seen to be doing something concerning Gaza, and thus providing a contrast to the Conservative Party's unconditional backing of Netanyahu and the war in Gaza. However, given the state of the British media, and the reality that it remains an overall elite consensus supporting Zionism in the West, as well as irking the United States, not much more can be expected from the UK government. Despite this, the message that this selective embargo sends is meaningful and has political substance to it. First, it sends a credible affirmation that the deeds of the Netanyahu government are contrary to international law, something its supporters in the West want to brush under the carpet, and thus comes as an acknowledgement that this conflict has brought about wide and large-scale human suffering. It is not propaganda and not an exaggeration to make such a point. Second, given the United Kingdom is often the "second advocate" of American led foreign policies, and is used strategically to "back them up" in compelling Europe to follow suit, the political influence of the United Kingdom gives other countries political space to criticise the situation in Gaza and set a precedent that they can hide behind. For example, if the UK is suspending certain arms exports, this gives the green light for other countries in Europe to follow suit. The rolling effect of this decision is that it changes the debate and makes it ever so more difficult for certain parties to shut down the debate over Gaza with the other tropes, and therefore raises the moral costs of supporting the catastrophe in Palestine. In addition, this also increases the political costs of Netanyahu pursuing his now parallel campaign in the West Bank, which should be accurately assessed as attempting to provoke a conflict, again claim the state is victimised, and therefore use large scale military assaults to destroy buildings, seize land and annex territory.

## What if Imran Khan is tried by a Military Court?

Qamar Bashir



Finally, if the Supreme Court declares an arrest illegal, especially in a high-profile case like that of Imran Khan, it would have far-reaching implications. Legally, it would reaffirm judicial independence and set a precedent for upholding civil liberties, possibly leading to the individual's release and accountability for those responsible for the unlawful detention. Politically, it could boost the individual's popularity, presenting them as a victim of injustice and strengthening their position, while weakening the government or authorities that initiated the arrest. This ruling could also strain civil-military relations if military involvement is questioned

IN today's press conference by DG ISPR, Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, a notable shift was observed compared to previous briefings. For the first time in several press conferences, the focus on the "May 9 riots" previously emphasized with severity, aggression, and strong warnings about consequences—was noticeably subdued. The tone concerning Balochistan was conciliatory, as the DG ISPR referred to the province as the "Shaan, Aan, and Jaan" of Pakistan. He praised the people of Balochistan as among the most intelligent, honorable, and brave in Pakistan, marking a significant departure from earlier rhetoric focused on security concerns. Additionally, the stance toward Afghanistan was notably softened. While maintaining a firm stance on ensuring no third power disrupts the relationship, the language was more diplomatic, emphasizing the need to preserve the "friendly and brotherly relations" between the two nations. However, for the media consumption, the most important part of the Press Conference was his reply to question whether the army would take custody of Mr. Imran Khan tried him under the military act in connection with the court-martial proceedings of the former DG ISPR. His reply is going to reverberate in the media for quite some time. He termed the question hypothetical but added that the law would be applied without discrimination if any individual, including those with political influence, were found to have violated it. The DG emphasized in such matters the law would take its own course. Let us consider a hypothetical scenario that Mr. Imran Khan is tried under the military act on charges of conspiring to use or influence a former Director General of the ISI (DG ISI) for personal or political gain. The political implications could be profound for both his personal future and Pakistan's political landscape. One possibility is that the trial under the military act may severely damage Imran Khan's standing, both within Pakistan and internationally. Historically, political leaders facing charges related to military matters or allegations of compromising national security have seen their influence wane. In Imran Khan's case, if proven guilty of such serious charges, he could be disqualified

from holding public office, similar to how leaders in Pakistan's past, like Nawaz Sharif, have faced legal hurdles that led to political marginalization. This would drastically reduce his capacity to participate in upcoming elections or hold any political office. Trying a former prime minister under the military act could set a significant legal precedent in Pakistan, highlighting the military's continued influence in political matters. This could lead to heightened tensions between political forces and the military, as well as sparking debates over civil-military relations. Additionally, such a move might further polarize the political environment, rallying Imran Khan's supporters to protest perceived injustices while his opponents capitalize on the situation. If Imran Khan were convicted, this would set a dangerous precedent on one hand and on the other hand it would impact PTI, his political party. His leadership is central to the party's identity, and his removal from the political scene would create a power vacuum within PTI, possibly fracturing the party. Without Khan's charismatic leadership, PTI could struggle to maintain its voter base, opening the door for rival parties like the PML-N and PPP to consolidate their positions. Imran Khan's trial could also fuel public sympathy or resistance. If his supporters perceive the charges as politically motivated or part of a larger effort to suppress dissent, it could lead to increased public unrest and protests, exacerbating political instability. Conversely, if the charges are viewed as legitimate and linked to national security, it could weaken his popular appeal and erode his support base. Internationally, such a trial could lead to diplomatic challenges. Western countries and international organizations could scrutinize Pakistan's legal and political processes, questioning the fairness of the trial. It could also impact Pakistan's relationships with key allies, especially if the case is perceived as part of internal power struggles. Over the next decade, this scenario could lead to new political movements filling the void, while the electoral landscape may focus on Khan's legacy. The trial's handling will also reflect on Pakistan's democratic institutions, potentially strengthening or weakening trust in governance depending on its fairness and transparency. It would further enlarge the wedge between the army and the gen-

eral public comprising national security. In the worst case scenario, Imran Khan's arrest would have profound implications across several fronts. It could trigger widespread protests from his supporters, escalating violence and straining the security forces, leading to clashes and disrupting daily life in major cities. The law and order situation could deteriorate further as political polarization increases, with potential for clashes between rival factions. Economically, the unrest could harm investor confidence, cause currency depreciation, and exacerbate inflation. Disruptions in markets and businesses could stall economic activity, further weakening Pakistan's fragile financial position, especially in ongoing negotiations with international lenders like the IMF. Overall, the arrest would intensify political instability, complicating Pakistan's internal governance and international standing. Finally, if the Supreme Court declares an arrest illegal, especially in a high-profile case like that of Imran Khan, it would have far-reaching implications. Legally, it would reaffirm judicial independence and set a precedent for upholding civil liberties, possibly leading to the individual's release and accountability for those responsible for the unlawful detention. Politically, it could boost the individual's popularity, presenting them as a victim of injustice and strengthening their position, while weakening the government or authorities that initiated the arrest. This ruling could also strain civil-military relations if military involvement is questioned. In terms of law and order, the decision could either calm or incite public unrest depending on how various groups perceive it. On the international front, it would enhance Pakistan's image as a country that upholds the rule of law, reassuring investors and foreign governments about the strength of its democratic institutions. Any action taken by the army against Imran Khan must be weighed carefully, as it could have serious implications for political stability and public order. A hasty or disproportionate response could lead to major setbacks for the country's internal security, governance, and international standing.

– Former Press Secretary to the President  
Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France  
Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV

## Why an Israel-Iran war is more likely than not

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed

Despite heavy casualties among Israeli forces, the billions of dollars bleeding from the Israeli economy, and his failure to eliminate Hamas' leadership, none of this has forced Netanyahu to stop the war. While the Gaza war is an Israeli affair, any future war with Iran would involve both Israel and the West. Israel is now more prepared than ever for a large-scale conflict, with naval fleets stationed and ready for a major war with Iran, marking one of the region's largest military buildups. This is a clear signal to Tehran...

THE Gaza war appears to be nearing its end with signs of agreements emerging, Hamas and Israel being closer in distance and Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah announcing that there will be no retaliatory conflict for the deaths of around 500 Hezbollah leaders. This is in addition to the remains of dead Israeli hostages now being handed over. However, in my opinion, the upcoming agreement won't prevent future confrontations between Iran and Israel. This time, war was on the brink. Unless both nations work to avoid future conflicts, which would require significant compromises, Iran's strategy of encirclement will probably lead to a war between these two regional powers. For the past four decades, the proxy confrontations have continued, with intermittent long truces that caused limited damage. How do we know that a war between Tehran and Tel Aviv is no longer as unlikely as we once thought? The Hamas raid on October 7 was different – a qualitative shift in the conflict between these camps, awakening deep fears in Israel. Israel perceived it as an existential threat, and its retaliatory attack also took a different approach. Israel decided to dismantle the Hamas regime in Gaza. It wants to restore its deterrence policy, where any attack on Israel comes with a high price, and to reinforce its image as a regional superpower. During this war, Israel has shown that it is capable of waging long battles, 11 months so far, across multiple fronts: Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Iran, and Yemen. Israel has demonstrated terrifying intelligence and advanced military capabilities. Without en-

tering even an inch of Lebanese territory, Israel managed to eliminate half of Hezbollah's leaders. It also targeted several Iranian Revolutionary Guard leaders and boldly assassinated a Hamas leader in Tehran itself. Internally, a significant portion of Israelis, particularly the elite, may dislike Netanyahu and his religious allies, but they have still united behind him. Despite heavy casualties among Israeli forces, the billions of dollars bleeding from the Israeli economy, and his failure to eliminate Hamas' leadership, none of this has forced Netanyahu to stop the war. While the Gaza war is an Israeli affair, any future war with Iran would involve both Israel and the West. Israel is now more prepared than ever for a large-scale conflict, with naval fleets stationed and ready for a major war with Iran, marking one of the region's largest military buildups. This is a clear signal to Tehran that Iran and its regime will bear the cost. Despite Russia's statements, visits from Russian officials, and the rapid deployment of military aid to counter any airstrikes on Iran, this escalation is unlike any previous conflict in the region since the 1973 war. It may lead Iran to reconsider the futility of confronting Israel, or will it push it to build up greater capabilities? The Cairo negotiations are on the verge of achieving an end to the fighting in Gaza, but it won't end the readiness for war with Iran and Hezbollah. Since the beginning of the war last year, Israel has been preparing for a conflict beyond Gaza. It has deployed backup power generators across

the country, filled water tanks, intensified cybersecurity measures, and stockpiled several months-worth of food supplies. Israel claims it can generate electricity from a diverse array of sources, on land, underground, and in the sea. If the electrical grid is destroyed, a backup system will restore power within seven minutes. Israel has also prepared bunkers for hundreds of thousands of people as a second line of defense, should the Iron Dome fail. The entrenchment mentality and preparing for war plays a crucial role in driving decisions toward conflict. For decades, Israel's main strategy has been based on the likelihood of a regional war, once focused on Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Today, this strategy is targeted against Iran, which it views as the primary existential threat, due to its pursuit of a nuclear military capability and missile development that could reach Israel's major cities. This makes Iran – not its proxies – the next target for Israel. In this war, Iran was unable to save Hamas and chose to protect Hezbollah by keeping it out of the fight. The attempt to open a front in Jordan failed, and Syria refrained from allowing Iranian-backed armed groups to use its territory for military action. The Houthis in Yemen were the only ones involved but pulled back from targeting Israel after its vital facilities in the Hodeidah port were destroyed. In my opinion, an Israeli-Iranian war is not unlikely, given the continued military buildup, Iranian expansion, and Israel's refusal to recognize a Palestinian state.

## Briefs

SC  
unanimously  
restores...

FROM PAGE 01  
the rostrum and advanced his arguments as court's assistant. The chief justice asked Haris to tell the court which fundamental right had been affected by the NAB amendments. He said he had explained the violation of fundamental rights in detail in the main case, adding that NAB amendments were in violation of Articles 9, 14, 25, and 24 of the constitution. Haris said the NAB law was promulgated in 1999 by retired Gen Pervez Musharraf and before him, there was a similar Accountability Act during the regime of Nawaz Sharif. At this point, the chief justice remarked that Pervez Musharraf had said that the purpose of the NAB was to remove corrupt politicians from the system, and the same was true of the request of the PTI founder. The lawyer said the name of any politician was not written on that petition, on which the chief justice remarked that apparently the government of the PTI founder also only wanted the accountability of politicians alone. The CJF further said the NAB law did not apply to the judiciary and certain institutions or personalities, but no amendment was made in this regard. "Parliament could have enacted the legislation." Khawaja Haris said all major political parties formed governments between 1999 and 2018, but no political party made such amendments to NAB rules. At this, the CJF noted that other political groups were not party [in the case], as the amendments were challenged by the PTI. "We will ask them [about it]." Lawyer Haris argued that these NAB amendments were challenged with specific reference. He said corruption affected the fundamental rights of the people, adding that embezzlement of public funds was a violation of rights. He further said the NAB laws applied to public office-holders who were not limited to politicians.

'Will not spare you':  
Imran...

FROM PAGE 01  
"I will take you both [IO and NAB chairman] to court [over fabricated cases]," the PTI founder added. Notably, the anti-graft bureau's investigation officer had informed the media about threats made by the former premier at least four times. This is not the first time Imran Khan has hurled threats at public officials with the most prominent being the case of Judge Zeba Chaudhry. Just months after his ouster in April 2022, the PTI founder gave a fiery speech directed towards Islamabad's top police officials and judge Chaudhry threatening not to "spare" them and file cases against them for "torturing" his party leader Shahbaz Gill. Meanwhile, the NAB prosecution team sought adjournment of the hearing citing the absence of prosecutor Umar Majeed. "[The] Supreme Court has given a verdict on NAB amendments case, and we have to review it," they added. Subsequently, the accountability court adjourned the hearing till September 9 at the prosecution team's request.

Court bars  
Sindh govt...

FROM PAGE 01  
submit their responses within four weeks. It is worth mentioning here that the member Sindh Assembly Muhammad Farooq of Jamaat-e-Islami filed a petition in the Sindh High Court arguing that an amount of Rs 2 billion is being released for double-cab in vehicles, while Pakistan is currently facing severe economic challenges. The petitioner further pleaded that the funds should be ordered to spend on welfare projects for general public. Earlier to this, Sindh government's decision to purchase 138 double-cabin vehicles for Assistant Commissioners (ACs) has been challenged in SHC. As per details, the petition, filed by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Muhammad Farooq, argued that the purchase is unnecessary and a waste of public funds.

# Pegula set-up US Open 2024 final with Aryna Sabalenka

## Sabalenka reached her second successive US Open final by seeing off another American, Emma Navarro

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: The cheers of home fans echoed through Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday as Jessica Pegula staged an astonishing comeback to beat Karolina Muchova 1-6 6-4 6-2 and set up a meeting with Aryna Sabalenka in her first Grand Slam final. The prospect of an all-American final had already been scotched when Belarusian Sabalenka earlier downed Emma Navarro 6-3 7-6(2) and for a while in the later match, it looked like the host nation would be unrepresented in the title-decider. Playing in her first major semi-final, Pegula was made to look like a novice by Muchova in a disastrous opening set but somehow turned the tables on the unseeded Czech. "It comes down to really small moments that flip momentum," said Pegula. "She made me look like a beginner... I was about to burst into tears because it was embarrassing. "I started to play like how I wanted to play... It took a while but I don't know how I turned that around, honestly." Pegula could only muster up three winners across the first set as Muchova showed no signs of rust despite her recent return from a wrist injury that sidelined her for some 10 months. With the famously raucous main showcourt deathly quiet, the Czech looked as though she might roll through the rest of



the match after going 2-0 up in the second set. Pegula, though, gradually found the form that had seen her win 14 of her previous 15 matches to break her opponent in the fourth game and again in the sixth. Muchova broke back in the seventh game but the mistakes were piling up and she showed her nerves by double faulting on set point to give Pegula an opening she did not pass up. Roared on by the crowd, Pegula marched through the first three games of a near-flawless final set and threw her hands in the air in delight after breaking Muchova on her second match point with

a fine forehand return. Sabalenka, the runner-up to American Coco Gauff last year, earlier relied on her superior power to subdue the 13th seed Navarro, sending over 34 winners and closing out the match with a satisfying overhead smash on match point. Navarro took out Gauff in the fourth round but was no match for the two-times Australian Open champion, even with a passionate home crowd urging her on. Sabalenka, who jokingly offered the crowd a free round of drinks if they supported her over the home hope, teased the fans after the win. "Now you're cheering for me - wow

- it's a bit late," she said. "Even though you guys were supporting her, I had goosebumps. She's such a great player, really tough opponent." The pair traded breaks early in the first set but Sabalenka soon settled in and wrestled the momentum in the sixth game, earning the break with a forehand winner before extinguishing Navarro's break-point chance in the seventh with an unreturnable serve. Navarro bloodied her knee midway through the second set chasing a shot and Sabalenka looked set to cruise to victory when an error by the American helped her to a break in the fifth game. The 13th seed refused to go down without a fight, applying pressure from the baseline to break back in the 10th game and put the set on course for a tiebreak. Sabalenka, once famously prone to melt-downs, gave a sarcastic thumbs up to her team after going 2-0 down in tiebreak with a double fault but soon got down to business, winning an 18-shot rally at the net en route to the win. "I'm really happy to see that in those key moments I'm able to stay focused and just try to do my best and focusing on my tennis," said Sabalenka. "Even if things are not working well for me, I still keep doing right things and I'm staying in control." Navarro's loss was a second disappointment for the home fans on Thursday after Italians Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori ended all-American pair Taylor Townsend and Donald Young's storybook run in the mixed doubles final 7-6(0) 7-5.

## Paralympics: Haider Ali wins bronze medal

### He bagged a throw of 52.54 metres on his sixth and final attempt to win his fourth Paralympic medal



WEB DESK  
PARIS: Pakistan's para-athlete Haider Ali won a bronze

medal after registering a throw of 52.54 metres on his sixth and final attempt on Friday at the Stade de France in the Men's Discus

Throw F37 event. Thanks to his season's best throw, he won his fourth Paralympic medal. In his first attempt, he bagged

## Silva slams 'completely crazy' football calendar

### Silva is set to play his sixth match of the season when Portugal face Scotland on Sunday

MADRID: Bernardo Silva has criticised the scheduling for top-level players while on international duty with Portugal. Silva is set to play his sixth match of the season when Portugal face Scotland on Sunday, though the schedule is only going to become more demanding with European competition approaching. In this year's Champions League, teams will play eight matches instead of six in the league phase, and a play-off round before the last-16 ties has also been introduced. At international level, teams have been competing in the Nations League with three international breaks scheduled before Christmas. Silva, speaking to Record, opened up on the impact the heavy schedule has had on him as he explained the struggles some top players are facing. "The schedule is completely crazy," he began. "We've just received the news that we only have one day off for the English League Cup game. "We'll probably play every three days for months. It's been absolutely absurd." In the Champions League, if you don't qualify for the round of 16 you still have to play two more games. "It's true that the squads are bigger, but I'm not going to say that it's easy. It hasn't been easy. I spend very little time with my family and friends. The amount of games we're subjected to is absolutely absurd." City will also take part in the new-look Club World Cup this summer, meaning their campaign could finish as late as July 13. In total, if they were to reach the final game of every competition, Pep Guardiola's side could play 68 matches this campaign, with players also playing internationally. - Agencies

## Australian pacer ruled out of UK tour

SYDNEY: Right-arm Australia pacer Nathan Ellis has been ruled out of the ongoing T20I series against Scotland and the white-ball series against arch-rivals England, scheduled later this month. According to the details, Ellis suffered a hamstring injury during his time at London Spriti in The Hundred last month and as a result, missed Australia's T20I series opener against Scotland. Ellis' Tasmanian teammate Riley Meredith, who made his international return after a gap of more than two years in Australia's seven-wicket victory over Scotland, will now remain a part of the Australia squad for the three-match T20I series against England. His replacement for the five-match ODI series against England, however, will be announced in due course. Nathan Ellis was supposed to lead Australia's inexperienced pace attack against Scotland in the absence of the senior trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood. Cummins and Starc will miss Australia's both T20I series while Hazlewood will return for the England assignment. "This was one of the series that I had earmarked for a long period of time knowing the schedule and the demand it would have on a lot of the guys," Ellis had said. - Agencies

## Winning Euros with Portugal is 'equivalent to a World Cup'

### Unlike Mbappe and Messi, winning the WC remains an unfulfilled ambition for Ronaldo

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe made headlines a few months ago by suggesting that the Euros are more difficult than the World Cup. The Frenchman may have recently found some unexpected support, as Cristiano Ronaldo appeared to downplay the tournament that Lionel Messi managed to win. "Portugal winning the Euros is equivalent to winning the World Cup," Ronaldo told RPT3 following Portugal's victory over Croatia in the 2024 UEFA Nations League, according to the Portuguese outlet Record. Unlike Mbappe and Messi, winning the World Cup remains an unfulfilled ambition for Ronaldo. While the Frenchman claimed the trophy on his first attempt at Russia 2018, the Argentine star completed his elusive quest in Qatar 2022. However, Mbappe doesn't seem too impressed, having suggested earlier this year that he believes the European Championship to be more challenging. Ronaldo also placed significant emphasis on the Euros, equating them with the World Cup. - Agencies



## Anderson to continue in fast bowling coach role

### "At the minute, I'm due to go to Pakistan and New Zealand in the winter," he said. "Then nothing concrete after that."

LONDON: James Anderson will continue his role as fast-bowling mentor in England's series against Pakistan in October. Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, retired from international cricket following the first Test against West Indies in July. The 42-year-old immediately joined the England backroom team and remains on a central contract until the end of this month. Working in the coaching staff for the three-Test series against Pakistan would extend Anderson's relationship with the England side beyond his current deal. Anderson also told Sky Sports he was planning on joining England for their series in New Zealand in December. "At the minute, I'm due to go to Pakistan and New Zealand in the winter," he said. "Then nothing concrete after that. "I'm very new to this, I'm still learning as we go. It's partly me trying to figure out if this is where I want to go with the next stage of my career and also for them to figure out if I'm any good at it." Anderson retired from Test cricket following discussions with England captain Ben Stokes, coach Brendon McCullum and managing director Rob Key in April, with the management deciding they wanted to look to younger fast bowlers. In Anderson's absence, Gus Atkinson has taken 33 wickets in his first five Tests, while Matthew Potts and Olly Stone have returned to the Test side. In the third and final Test against Sri Lanka at The Oval, England have handed a debut to 20-year-old Josh Hull, a 6ft 7in left-armer from Leicestershire with only 16 wickets from 10 first-class matches. Anderson worked with Hull during the second Test at Lord's, when Hull was an unused member of the England squad. "There was a great moment at Lord's where you saw Josh

Hull bowling in the middle and Jimmy standing at the top of his mark," Key told Test Match Special. "You think 'how good this is' - all of that knowledge, you don't want to lose that. He is able to pass it on. "Jimmy is not always the most outgoing, but he has really taken to coaching. "It would be great to have Jimmy in Pakistan, the same in New Zealand and who knows going forward. Jimmy has a few itches to scratch along the way but it is great to have him involved with us." Anderson has previously indicated an interest in continuing his playing career in T20 franchise leagues, despite not featuring in white-ball cricket since 2019. Speaking on the Tailenders podcast, which was released on Friday, Anderson hinted at talks over a deal. "There might be people behind the scenes chatting to people," he said. "I have not played white-ball cricket for



a while so that is the first thing I need to get back to if I am to think about doing it. "I don't know if there is any interest so I will just ask around." There is some doubt over the schedule for the series in Pakistan. The Tests are due to be played in Karachi, Multan and Rawalpindi, but some grounds are undergoing renovation works before the Champions Trophy next year. One option could be to host part of the series outside of Pakistan, with Abu Dhabi a potential venue. Key said England have had nothing confirmed and will find it difficult to pick a squad while there is doubt over the location of the Tests. "I have heard Sri Lanka and South Africa," he said. "I don't think it will be there, personally. There are rumours flying around. "My guess is we will end in Multan. None of this is a security issue. They are trying to get grounds ready for the Champions Trophy. My guess is we will be in Pakistan - but that is a guess." Former England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff is also part of the coaching staff for the third Test against Sri Lanka, filling in for assistant coach Marcus Trescothick, who is taking charge of the white-ball team for the series against Australia beginning next week. Though there are no confirmed plans for Flintoff's continuing involvement with the England side, Key said "he will do more stuff with us in the winter". The 46-year-old has previously worked with England's white-ball and Lions teams, the latter of which are due to tour South Africa and Australia. "Freddie is loving coaching," said Key. "Sometimes it is a trait that is not spoken about enough - he is kind. All of the things Fred can be: funny, extrovert. He is kind. It is an underrated quality." - Agencies

## PTI hopes 'legal relief' for Imran

FROM PAGE 01

"The prosecution has itself admitted that Imran Khan did not gain any personal benefit from the case". "According to the Supreme Court ruling, both cases are now over," he added. Barrister Gohar further elaborated, stating, "The Al-Qadir Trust case should be dismissed on merit, and Toshakhana 2 cannot proceed. Bushra Bibi's name was never on the Toshakhana list. It was only included to pressure Imran Khan."

## 'Don't let political dissent...

FROM PAGE 01

Sialkot and Sindh were attacked by the enemy on September 6, 1965. The battle continued till the time when the United Nations (UN) administered ceasefire was accepted by both sides on September 22, 1965. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, federal ministers and other dignitaries attended the ceremony.

## LHC declares appointment of Nadra...

FROM PAGE 01

the Nadra amendment rules and declare appointment of the servicemen as Nadra chairman invalid. A Pakistani newspaper in its report quoting sources on August 30, 2023 - said that the interim federal cabinet had approved the rules for the appointment of the NADRA chairman, which opened doors to the servicemen to be deputed as the head of the public institution.

## Deputy PM speaks with UK Lord...

FROM PAGE 01

He lauded the role played by 1.7 million British-Pakistanis in fortifying the Pakistan-UK partnership. The Deputy Prime Minister said that he looked forward to working with Lord Chancellor Mahmood to further strengthen the special relationship between Pakistan and the UK for the benefit of both peoples. He invited the Lord Chancellor to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient date. Lord Chancellor Mahmood thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for his warm message of felicitations. She agreed that the vibrant British-Pakistani community was playing a critical role in enriching the ties between two countries.

## Govt eliminates vacant...

FROM PAGE 01

will no longer be able to do so at the government's expense. In an additional measure to cut government expense, non-essential foreign travel funded by the government has also been prohibited. The Ministry of Finance has sent the notification to all federal ministries and divisions, instructing them to implement the new austerity policies with immediate effect. It is worth mentioning here that the Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over the drop in inflation in the country to a single-digit, hailing the government's economic team for their efforts.

## Islamabad reports first case of polio

FROM PAGE 01

The illness invades the nervous system and causes paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. Despite rigorous efforts by the government towards eradication of the disease, Pakistan remains in the grip of poliovirus. It is one of the two remaining polio-endemic countries in the world, along with Afghanistan, and the number of cases on a yearly basis has significantly dropped in the country.

## Briefs

Türkiye,  
Egypt to  
strengthen  
ties

FOREIGN DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan highlighted Friday the strong commitment of Türkiye and Egypt to deepen their bilateral and regional relations. Speaking at a joint press conference with Kosovo's Foreign Minister Donika Gervilla-Schwarz in Pristina, Fidan emphasized the mutual desire to unlock the full potential of the partnership between the two countries. "Egypt and Türkiye have a strong will to realize the full potential of both countries, both in bilateral relations and regional affairs," Fidan said in response to a reporter's question. He added that formalizing the relationship "within a more systematic framework" could serve as a model for the region. Fidan's remarks follow Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's visit to the Turkish capital Ankara on Wednesday.—APP

NATO chief  
urges China  
to cease  
support for  
Russia

LONDON: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Friday called on China to halt its support for Russia. "China cannot continue to fuel the largest military conflict in Europe without this impacting Beijing's interests and reputation," Stoltenberg said in Oslo, urging all NATO allies to maintain their support for Ukraine. He emphasized that the quickest way to end the war is to provide Ukraine with the military assistance it needs to prevail. "President Putin must realize that he cannot win on the battlefield but must accept a just and lasting peace where Ukraine remains a sovereign and independent nation," Stoltenberg said. He praised Norway for its contributions to NATO's multinational battlegroup in Lithuania, air-policing missions, and its increasing defense spending. "Norway will reach, and actually exceed, the 2% NATO guideline on defense spending, and according to its long-term plan, it will continue to significantly raise its defense budget," he noted. The NATO secretary general also commended Norway for its support to Ukraine, including the provision of advanced air defense systems, F-16 fighter jets, and other cutting-edge military capabilities. "Norway's long-term commitment to Ukraine serves as an example of the vital role all Allies must play," he added.—Agencies

Death toll  
in Kenyan  
school fire  
rises to 17

NAIROBI: The death toll in a fire at central Kenyan school early Friday morning has risen to 17, authorities confirmed. The blaze broke out at Hillside Enderasha Academy in Nyeri, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) north of Nairobi, engulfing a dormitory and reducing it to ashes. Critically injured students have been rushed to Mathari Mission Hospital and Nyeri County Referral Hospital for treatment, Kenya's government spokesperson Isaac Maigua Mwarua said in a statement. "The affected dormitory housed boys from grades 4 to 8. A total of 156 boys were residing in the dormitory," Mwarua said. He added that emergency services are still determining the final number of fatalities, with updates to follow as more information becomes available. The fire caused such extensive damage that identifying the victims has been difficult as many were burned beyond recognition, according to a local TV network. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire. In September 2017, a fire at Moi Girls' School in Nairobi killed nine students, later determined to be an act of arson.—Agencies

Jordan to view displacement of  
Palestinians 'declaration of war'

Safadi noted that Amman is preparing a legal file regarding the Israeli incursions into holy sites in occupied al-Quds, describing such raids as "playing with fire that will burn the entire region"

NEWS DESK

AMMAN: Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi has warned that any Israeli attempt to displace Palestinians from the occupied West Bank to Jordan will be considered a "declaration of war." Safadi's remarks in a joint press conference with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock in Amman came as the forcible displacement of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan and Egypt, respectively, has been an Israeli goal for decades.

Referring to Israel's largest incursion in the occupied West Bank in about two decades, Jordan's top diplomat said "Israel is waging another war", amid the regime's ongoing war on the Gaza Strip. He noted that the tensions in the West Bank could lead to a wider war in the region. Safadi noted that Amman is preparing a legal file regarding the Israeli incursions into holy sites in occupied al-Quds, describing such raids as "playing with fire that will burn the entire region." On August 13, Israel's hawkish minister Itamar Ben-Gvir led hundreds of settlers into al-Aqsa Mosque

Israeli forces withdraw from  
Jenin, Tulkarm after 10-days

JENIN: The Israeli military early Friday withdrew from the northern West Bank cities of Jenin, Tulkarm and their refugee camps, following 10 days of incursion and assaults, killing 36 Palestinians and injuring dozens more. Witnesses told Anadolu that the Israeli forces pulled out of Tulkarm and its refugee camp after having withdrawn from Jenin and its camp just hours earlier. They said that there is significant destruction to infrastructure and homes in the city. The Israeli army had re-entered Tulkarm early Monday, after initially pulling out on the evening of Aug. 29, following a 48-hour-long military offensive. Earlier on Friday, Israeli forces also withdrew from the city of Jenin and its refugee camp after 10 days of strikes that killed and wounded dozens of people, leaving behind significant ruin, according to the official Palestinian agency Wafa. Jenin residents voiced fears that the Israeli military would return to the city and the camp to launch further attacks after withdrawing and positioning at the surrounding military checkpoints, as has occurred repeatedly in the past. Israeli forces destroyed the main roads in Jenin, the refugee camp, and the infrastructure in the area east of the city. Water, electricity, and communications lines were severed as a consequence of the excavation and wreckage executed by Israeli construction machinery in the vicinity. The Israeli army on Aug. 28 initiated its most extensive military campaign in the northern West Bank in two decades. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, during their offensive in Jenin, Tulkarm, Tubas, and Al-Fara camp, Israeli forces killed 36 Palestinians and injured over 150 others. Separately, the Palestinian Civil Defense told Anadolu that according to preliminary damage assessments, more than 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) of roads and neighborhoods in the city of Jenin and its refugee camp were completely destroyed by Israeli forces during their operations in the city. "Civil Defense teams, in collaboration with partner organizations, have begun rehabilitation efforts," the statement said, without elaborating. Tensions have intensified throughout the occupied West Bank as Israel persists in its offensive on the Gaza Strip, which has killed nearly 40,900 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, since last Oct. 7. At least 691 individuals have been killed and more than 5,700 injured by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank since that time, according to the Health Ministry.—APP

compound in the occupied East al-Quds. During his recent provocative visit, Ben-Gvir said that it was his "policy" to allow Jewish prayers on the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third-holiest site where only Muslims are allowed to pray under a status quo arrangement originally reached more than a century ago. Ben-Gvir later revealed his intention to build a Jewish synagogue inside

the al-Aqsa Mosque compound. He said that if he could, he would build a synagogue on the al-Aqsa Mosque complex. Elsewhere in his remarks, Safadi urged the international community to take action to stop the escalation of the situation in the West Bank and the region. The minister added that Israeli actions on the ground have killed all opportunities for achieving a just peace. "Stopping the aggression on Gaza and the escalation in the West Bank" is "the first step to prevent the situation in the region from worsening further." Safadi emphasized Jordan's support for a prisoner swap deal between Israel and the Palestinian resistance movement, blaming Netanyahu for obstructing its completion as he "changed his positions and backed out of his commitments". Since the start of Israel's aggression on Gaza, the West Bank has also seen a rise in violence from Israeli forces and settlers that claimed the lives of hundreds of Palestinians. The Israeli army launched its largest incursion into the northern West Bank in two decades on August 28, killing dozens of Palestinians so far. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, at least 691 Palestinians have been killed and more than 5,700 others injured by Israeli troops since October 7.

HEC  
conducts  
2-day  
workshop

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has conducted a two-day workshop on "Marketing, Branding, and Outreach through Digital and Social Media Platforms" for universities and HEC media representatives at NUST, Islamabad. The workshop concluded successfully yesterday and was organized by the USAID-funded 'Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program'. At the closing session, Muhammad Raza Chohan, Advisor Scholarships, and Ms. Kate Maloney, Director of the Office of Education, USAID Pakistan, were in attendance. Speaking at the occasion, Chohan lauded the 20-year partnership between HEC and USAID. He emphasized the profound impact of modern social media in transforming higher education communication. He also highlighted the importance of developing a strategic brand identity to enhance university enrollment, foster external linkages, and attract greater investment.—APP

NA offers  
Fateha for  
souls of  
Martyrs

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Friday offered fateha for the souls of martyrs of the country who rendered their lives for the defence of the country. MNA Asad Alam Niazi led the fateha at the request of the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. We should celebrate

September  
6 as 'Day of  
Loyalty'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday in his message regarding Defence Day said all of us should pledge to celebrate September 6 as the "Day of Loyalty". The minister said on September 6, 1965, the enemy was taught a lesson, stories of courage and bravery have been created. "Today we all have to renew our pledge to stand by our youth and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their nation and country, they can never be forgotten," he said. "Martyrs will always remain in our hearts, Pakistan is still facing terrorism and the dirty tricks of the enemy," he said. This day warms the blood of all of us and inspires us to sacrifice everything for the motherland, he added.

On this day, the entire nation salutes the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force. The enemy should not be under any misunderstanding because the entire nation is standing by its forces, the minister underlined.

P@SHA  
delegation  
visits PTA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan IT Association (P@SHA) visited the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Headquarters on Friday to discuss and deliberate on facilitating a smooth and congenial business environment for IT companies and software houses. Chairman of the PTA, Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, extended a warm welcome to the P@SHA delegation and informed them that the PTA is proactively working on improving the ease of doing business in the IT sector. PTA is cognizant that uninterrupted access is fundamental for efficient working of the IT industry and is ensuring that IT exporters stay connected and safe while delivering internationally said a news release. In this regard, IP addresses for VPNs are being registered for software houses businesses, and IT companies. VPN Registration is a "one window operation" available at PTA and PSEB websites that takes 2 to 3 days and is free of cost. P@SHA delegation appreciated PTA's cooperation in facilitating the software houses whenever approached. The delegation was satisfied that the internet speeds are normalized now and the industry is back on track.—DNA

Global hunger number  
doubles in 2024: UN

This level represents an "extreme lack of food and exhaustion of coping capacities," with a sharply increased risk of acute malnutrition and death

NEW YORK: The number of people experiencing catastrophic hunger has surged more than twofold in 2024, due largely to the ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Sudan, according to new figures released by the United Nations (UN). The updated Global Report on Food Crises reveals that nearly two million people are now grappling with the most critical level of food insecurity, classified as Phase 5 on the global IPC (Integrated Food Security) scale, which tracks acute hunger. This level represents an "extreme lack of food and exhaustion of coping capacities," with a sharply increased risk of acute malnutrition and death. "As well as causing widespread acute malnutrition and death in the short term, it has major human,

social and economic impacts in the long term," the report noted. The report also found that acute malnutrition among children and women in crisis-affected countries remained "persistently high," with many families unable to afford a healthy diet. It also noted that improved harvests helped reduce hunger in several countries, including Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Lebanon and Afghanistan. The report was prepared by a consortium of UN agencies, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with humanitarian partners. Victor Aguayo,

UNICEF Director of Child Nutrition, described the situation for children affected by severe malnutrition. Briefing journalists at the UN Headquarters in New York, he described the situation in Gaza as one of the most severe food and nutrition crises in history. "The nutrition situation in Gaza is one of the most severe that we have ever seen...it is important to remember that nearly half of Gaza's population suffering from this devastation are children," he said. Having returned from the enclave last week, he said that the impact of the Israeli attacks and severe restrictions on the humanitarian response have led to a "complete collapse" of food, health and protection systems, with catastrophic consequences. Most of the agricultural

land in the Gaza Strip has been destroyed by the conflict. "The fact is that the diets of children in Gaza are extremely poor. It is estimated that over 90 per cent of children are eating at best two types of food per day for weeks or months, in the context of very severe... lack of access to safe water and sanitation," he said. Estimates suggest that more than 50,000 children need immediate treatment for acute malnutrition, requiring medical professionals and nutrition workers. "I walked through markets and neighborhoods, or what is left of markets and neighborhoods...there is no doubt in my mind there is a famine and a large-scale nutrition crisis," he emphasized, calling for an immediate ceasefire and sustained humanitarian access.—APP

Blinken reaffirms  
90% of Gaza  
cease-fire deal settled

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed Thursday that 90% of the terms for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage agreement have been settled, urging both Israel and Hamas to agree on the remaining "critical issues." "I think based on what I've seen, 90% is agreed, but there are a few critical issues that remain where we need to be able to get agreement, and they really go to how certain aspects of the agreement would be implemented," Blinken told reporters during a press conference in Haiti. He said the remaining disputed issues, including the Philadelphia Corridor and the specifics of how hostages and prisoners are exchanged, have been discussed in recent days. "At this point, it seems to me that it's really incumbent on both parties to get to yes on these remaining issues," he said, noting the "active discussions" with the US's partners Egypt and Qatar. "I expect in the coming days we will share with Israel, and they'll share with Hamas, our thoughts, the three of us, on exactly how to resolve the remaining outstanding questions. And then it will be time really for the parties to decide yes or no, and then we'll see," he added. "As close as we have gotten and as close as I believe we are to getting a ceasefire agreement, every day that goes by where it is not finalized and the parties don't say yes, period, is a day in which something else happens and there is an intervening event which simply pushes things off and runs the risk of derailing what is a pretty fragile apple cart," Blinken said. Blinken's remarks followed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's dismissal of reports quoting a senior US administration official who said that 90% of the terms for a ceasefire and hostage exchange deal had been agreed upon, with Netanyahu calling the claims "exactly inaccurate."—Agencies

Japan PM promises  
warmer ties with Seoul

SEOUL: Japan's outgoing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met South Korean leader Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday for a final round of talks, hoping to cement improving ties between the two countries before he leaves office. The two nations, both key security allies of the United States, have long been at odds over historical issues linked to Japan's brutal occupation of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945, including sexual slavery and forced labour. But Yoon has moved to bury the hatchet in recent years, restarting regular talks with Kishida and ramping up military cooperation in the face of rising threats from the nuclear-armed North. "Based on the solid trust between our two countries, the relationship between Korea and Japan has improved significantly over the past year and a half," said Yoon during talks. "There are still difficult issues in the Korea-Japan relationship. I look forward to working together in a forward-looking manner so that our steps toward a brighter future can continue," he added. Kishida said his "heart breaks" thinking so many people "have experienced sad and hard" times in "such a difficult environment", referring to the victims of the historical issues. He added that although the two countries have "history", "it is very important to cooperate with South Korea toward the future by inheriting the efforts of our ancestors who have overcome difficult times"—APP



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain visited the family of Lt. Col. Asif Ali Awan Shaheed. — DNA

## Zelenskyy urges allies to accelerate arms deliveries

Ukrainian president arrives at Ramstein Air Base in Germany to attend meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Sept 6 (AFP/APP): President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appeared in person at a meeting of Ukraine's international backers in Germany on Friday, appealing for additional weapons as Kyiv faces advancing Russian forces in the east and devastating strikes by Moscow. He will also meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and then head to Italy, following the meeting at Ramstein Air Base, which comes days after 55 people were killed and 300 wounded in a Russian missile strike on the city of Poltava. "We need more weapons to drive Russian forces off our land," Zelenskyy said. He also urged Kyiv's supporters to follow through on previous commitments, saying: "The number of air defence systems that have not been delivered is significant." And he again called for restrictions on the use of long-range Western weapons to hit targets inside Russia to be lifted. "We need to have this long-range capability, not only on the occupied territory of Ukraine, but also

## US announces \$250 mln aid for Ukraine

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is set to approve an additional \$250 million in security assistance for Ukraine despite warnings about the repercussions of funneling military aid to Kiev and prolonging a devastating war with Russia. "I'm pleased to say that President Biden will announce today an additional \$250 million security assistance package for Ukraine. It will surge more capabilities to meet Ukraine's evolving requirements and will deliver them at the speed of war," said Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin at the start of talks in a Ukraine Defense Contact Group Meeting at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Friday. "This coalition of some 50 nations stands united and firm, and today we will push even harder to step up our support for Ukraine," he said, adding, "This is a critical moment. Time is of the essence, especially with winter on its way, and we must all step up our support and quickly." The new military aid to Ukraine is expected to include ammunition for HIMARS precision rocket launchers, artillery rounds, anti-tank and anti-air weapons. Austin's statement comes at a time when Ukrainian forces are advancing into Russia's Kursk region which Russian forces are pushing deeper in the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday met in person with top US military officials and the representatives of Kiev's international backers at the meeting in the southwest of Frankfurt to press for more weapons support. "We need more weapons to drive Russian forces off our land," said Zelenskyy, who has reshuffled his cabinet recently amid war losses. The Ukrainian president urged Kiev's supporters to follow through on previous commitments regarding air defense systems and called for restrictions on the use of long-range Western weapons to hit targets inside Russia to be lifted. "We need to have this long-range capability, not only on the occupied territory of Ukraine, but also on the Russian territory," Zelenskyy said. The meeting at the base southwest of Frankfurt is being hosted by US defence chief Lloyd

Austin, who announced that Washington will provide \$250 million in new military aid for Ukraine. The package "will surge in more capa-

bilities to meet Ukraine's evolving requirements," Austin told the meeting. The assistance is expected to include ammunition for

HIMARS precision rocket launchers, artillery rounds, anti-tank and anti-air weapons, a US defence official said on condition of anonymity. The talks in Germany, with representatives from some 50 nations, will focus on areas including bolstering Ukraine's air defences and encouraging allies to boost their defence industries, Pentagon spokesman Major General Pat Ryder said ahead of the meeting. "Ukraine matters to US and international security, and the efforts of (Kyiv's allies meeting in Ramstein) continue to play a vital role in Ukraine's fight for freedom and sovereignty," he said. The meeting comes as Moscow's forces advance in the Donbas, with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday declaring that capturing the eastern area was his "primary objective" in the conflict. Since the start of its offensive in February 2022 when it failed to seize the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, Russia has adapted its aims, concentrating instead on trying to conquer eastern Ukraine.

## Briefs

**No one will be allowed to seal Islamabad**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Daniyal Chaudhry said that no one would be allowed to close Islamabad with containers. Talking to the media, the PML-N leader highlighted that Pakistan was facing tough times and various crises. There was no contribution of us in the world except chanting slogans of corruption for four years. "Foreign investors, businessmen and cricketers face challenges when a mob controls and seals Islamabad," Daniyal Chaudhry gave reasons for halting public gatherings in the capital. Chaudhry supported a bill on permission of public gathering in Islamabad, he asked that wasn't this bill the need of the hour. He emphasised that only the vision and narrative of Pakistan progress and development would be propagated. Any party will not be allowed to seal the capital, they could hold a public gathering in a certain locality but not in Islamabad. Bill had defined the mechanism to stage 10 sit-in in a place but Islamabad closure would not be allowed as safety and security of public was the biggest constitutional responsibility, Daniyal Chaudhry reiterated.

## Resolution on Defence Day passed in PA

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly has passed unanimously a resolution on Defence Day, September 6, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan tabled the resolution pertaining to Defence Day. "The House pays tribute to officers of the Armed forces for sacrificing their lives on September 6, 1965," it was mentioned in the resolution. Army, Navy and Air Forces played an exemplary role to defend motherland in 1965 war. Armed forces will not hesitate to sacrifice and defend their motherland if needed and the nation would support them and stand side by side. The Punjab Assembly speaker has also postponed the session of the house until Monday 2 pm. Defence and Martyrs Day is being observed today (Friday) to pay tribute to martyrs and Ghazis and reaffirm commitment to defend the motherland against all threats. It was on this day in 1965 that the Indian forces crossed the international border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan but the nation foiled nefarious designs of the enemy.

## Azhar Mashwani's brothers return home

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: PTI social media team head Azhar Mashwani confirmed on Friday that both of his missing brother came back home at 2am. In a tweet on X, Mashwani said both his brothers Prof Mazhar Mashwani and Prof Zahoor Mashwani returned home after remaining missing from June 6 to Sept 6. He also prayed for the safe return of other PTI workers in his message. Mashwani thanked Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Lahore High Court's Shehbaz Ali Rizvi for not putting the case in limbo and hearing it on merit. During last hearing, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) said that callousness of state institutions in recovery of two brothers of Azhar Mashwani was very discouraging. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of the IHC issued the written order of the case. The written order read that whereabouts of Azhar Mashwani's brothers were still not known and it's very dispiriting.

# President for stronger Navy to protect geo-economic interests

The president expressed these views while addressing the induction ceremony of PNS Babur and Hunain into the Pakistan Navy fleet, here at the PN Dockyard



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday called for making the Pakistan Navy further stronger in order to protect the geo-economic interests and defend maritime frontiers of the country. Welcoming the induction of MILGEM Class Corvette Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Babur and Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS Hunain into the Pakistan Navy (PN) fleet, he said that the ships would enable the Navy to perform its ever-growing operational responsibilities. The president expressed these views while

addressing the induction ceremony of PNS Babur and Hunain into the Pakistan Navy fleet, here at the PN Dockyard. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister of National Defence Turkiye, Bilal Burdali, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, senior representatives of construction yards, high-ranking officials of the Armed Forces and the political leadership. PNS Babur is a multipurpose ship built and commissioned at Istanbul Naval Shipyard on 23 September 2023. PNS Hunain, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was

built and commissioned at DAMEN Shipyard, Romania on 25 July 2024. Addressing the ceremony, the President said that the induction of PNS Babur and Hunain into the fleet was a milestone achievement in fortifying Pakistan's maritime defence capabilities. He noted that these ships would enhance the operational readiness of the Navy to counter both conventional and asymmetric threats. The president underscored the pivotal role played by the Pakistan Navy in ensuring maritime security, contributing to regional stability, and supporting the country's economic growth by safeguarding sea lanes of communications.

He said that the Pakistan Navy was ensuring the continuous flow of maritime commerce and defending the maritime boundaries, in view of the great potential of the blue economy for country's economic growth. The president reiterated Pakistan's resolve to defend its sovereignty, uphold peace, prosperity and stability, and defend the motherland at all costs. He said that Defence and Martyrs' Day reminded of the courage, unity, and determination of the Armed Forces and citizens who defended the nation against external aggression. He paid rich tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland. Acknowledging the collaborative efforts involved in the construction of the newly inducted ships, the President expressed his gratitude to the teams from Pakistan, Turkiye and the Dutch DAMEN Shipyard for their dedication and hard work. "These ships symbolize our strong friendship with Turkiye and our trust in the Dutch DAMEN Shipyard in Romania," he remarked. He added that the development would further boost the Navy's ability to defend the country's maritime boundaries. President Zardari also extended special congratulations to the Commanding Officers and crew of PNS Babur and PNS Hunain, wishing them success in their future endeavours. In his welcome address, the Chief of the Naval Staff termed the induction of the two ships in the PN Fleet as a major milestone in the capacity building of the PN Fleet. He acknowledged the government's full support for providing the best possible resources for this purpose. He also acknowledged the professional competence of M/s ASFAT, Istanbul Shipyard, DAMEN Shipyard Galati Romania, and the entire project team for delivering potent ships which showcased the deep-rooted friendship and cooperation between friendly countries.

## ADB increases support for key priorities

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved an ambitious new road map to guide its evolution and scale up its support on key challenges facing Asia and the Pacific, including accelerated efforts to combat climate change and expand private sector development. The ADB's Strategy 2030 Midterm Review—an update of its corporate strategy—outlines how the bank will transform in a rapidly changing development landscape and respond to challenges that threaten its vision for a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable region. "Cascading shocks have dealt years of development progress in Asia and the Pacific. ADB is updating its vision, expanding its financial capacity, and modernizing its operational approach to help its members respond to these unprecedented challenges, including the accelerating climate crisis, public health crises, and economic and fiscal vulnerability," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. "Our support is needed now more than ever. This new road map sets an unprecedented level of ambition and focus for ADB's work and will ensure we meet the moment through bold action and transformative impact," he added. — APP

## Officers suspended for valid refunds

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has suspended two tax officers for issuing multi-billion rupees prima facie genuine tax refund, which the Finance Minister himself had instructed to release aimed at removing a bottleneck in the way of \$80 million Saudi investment in a Pakistani company. The development comes amid yet another decision of the government to slow-down the releases of Rs23 billion worth exporters' matured refunds after the huge tax shortfall—a move that is also in breach of Prime Minister The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) suspended a commissioner and a deputy commissioner for issuing a Rs2 billion refund to Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd (GO), a fuel pump and retail store operator. According to two FBR notifications, the officers were suspended for 120 days or until further notice, following a report from the Directorate General of Intelligence & Investigation alleging the refund was illegal. Sources revealed that the officers had processed the refund under the direct orders of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. The minister's directive sought to resolve a bottleneck in the conclusion of an \$80 million acquisition deal, in which Aramco, one of the world's leading energy and chemicals companies, acquired a 40% equity stake in Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd.

## Govt declares public holiday on Sept 17

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has declared September 17, Tuesday, a public holiday to observe Eid Milad-un-Nabi, marking the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). A notification from the Cabinet Division confirmed that all schools, colleges, and public and private offices will remain closed on this day. The Punjab government has also announced a holiday on the same date for 12th RabiulAwwal. The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, after meeting on Wednesday, confirmed that the moon for RabiulAwwal was not sighted, declaring the 12th of the month will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 17. Muslims globally commemorate the Prophet's birth on 12th RabiulAwwal, also known as Mawlid al-Nabawi, the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

## NA adopts 'peaceful assembly' bill

Bill proposes three-year imprisonment and unspecified fine to members of 'unlawful assembly'

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Following the approval from the Senate, the National Assembly (NA) on Friday passed the "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024", proposing up to three-year imprisonment for organising unauthorised rallies in Islamabad. The bill, introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Daniyal Chaudhry, aims to regulate public gatherings in the federal capital and ensure they do not disrupt public order. Speaking on the floor of the lower house of parliament, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the purpose of the bill is to maintain peace during public assemblies and processions. He dismissed the opposition's concerns, saying that the increasing number of demonstrations in the federal capital has caused significant inconvenience to citizens. "The bill seeks to address these challenges while preserving the right to peaceful assembly," the federal minister added. Despite opposition from lawmakers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), the peaceful assembly was passed by a majority vote. With approval from both houses of parliament, the bill will now be sent to President Asif Ali Zardari for final endorsement to become law. The new bill empowers the district magistrate to regulate and ban public assemblies in the federal capital, proposing a punishment of up to three years or/and an unspecified fine to the members of an 'unlawful assembly' Meanwhile, it also proposed that repeat offenders will be liable to imprisonment for a term that may extend to 10 years.

## Intra-party polls case Election Commission of Pakistan dismisses PTI plea

Electoral body says it would be inappropriate to defer matter further as it has already been delayed too long

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday dismissed the PTI pleas seeking deferment of the hearing of the case regarding its intra-party polls till the Supreme Court provides clarification on its July 12 ruling on the reserved seats matter. In its decision, the ECP maintained that the PTI had already delayed the issue of intra-party polls a lot and it wouldn't be appropriate to defer the matter any further. The ruling, reserved on August 27, was announced by the electoral body's three-member bench comprising Nisar Ahmed Durani, Shah Muhammad Jatoi and Justice (ret'd) Ikram Ullah. The development comes as the Imran Khan-founded party had filed a plea in the ECP seeking a delay in hearing of the intra-party elections issue and had also challenged its jurisdiction over the matter. It is to be noted that the government body had taken up the matter after the apex court's full bench declared the party eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The months-long intra-party polls saga dates back to last year when the ECP revoked the party's bat symbol over unlawful elections within the party. The

PTI had then held another intra-party elections in March this year — which too were challenged in the electoral body. Stressing that registered political parties are obligated to elect their officials at the federal and local levels, ECP's today's verdict says that arguments in the case regarding PTI's intra-party polls will be taken up on September 18. The ruling also pointed out that the former ruling party's own members had filed complaints with the commission on intra-party elections. Rejecting the former ruling party's plea challenging its jurisdiction, the electoral body said that it is bound to verify the documents submitted by a party under Section 208 of the Elections Act. The commission is bound to look into the matter before issuing the certificate to the party and is also responsible for seeing whether the intra-party elections have been conducted in accordance with the law and the party constitution or not, read the order issued by the three-member bench. On the party's complaint regarding the seizure of records and computers by the Federal Investigation Agency, the ECP directed the former ruling party to approach the relevant forum for the return of said items.

## Heirs of Karsaz accident victims pardon suspect

Victims' relatives say they have no objection to granting bail to suspect, as the accident was not deliberate

KARACHI: Heirs of the Karsaz road accident victims on Friday pardoned the suspect, saying they had no objection to granting them bail in the case as the mishap was not intentional. "Matters have been settled between us and we have pardoned the suspect. We have forgiven for Allah's sake, who's the most kind and most merciful," read the affidavit submitted in the court during hearing of the suspect's plea seeking bail. The heirs said they had no objection to granting bail to the suspect as the accident that happened was not a deliberate murder attempt. "We have given this no-objection certificate without any pressure and what we have said in the affidavit

is absolutely correct," the affidavit read. On the suspect's plea, the no objection certificates were presented in court by inheritors of the victims — Imran Arif's son Usama Arif, wife and a daughter. The additional district and sessions judge east has granted the suspect bail against Rs100,000 worth of surety bond. The court confirmed the interim bail of Danish Iqbal, the husband of the accused, as well in exchange for Rs50,000 bond. The deceased Imran's widow, daughter and son appeared in person as an affidavit pardoning the suspect was presented in the court on their behalf. The complainant Imtiaz Arif, Imran's brother, and injured persons' lawyer were also present on this occasion. The lawyer of the persons wounded in the accident apprised the judge that the dispute between the injured and defendants was also settled. The suspect's lawyer, while presenting his arguments, said the suspect was mentally ill and was undergoing treatment since August 2005. — DNA

## Naqvi calls for collective efforts to eliminate terrorism

Says anybody who takes arms against the state is a terrorist

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has urged religious scholars to support and stand by the government in its efforts to purge the country from the scourge of terrorism and extremism. Talking to delegation of Ulama and Mashaikh in Islamabad, he said, "Pakistan is first and we all have to make collective efforts for its development and prosperity." In connection with Defence Day, being observed today, he categorically stated that anybody who takes arms against the state is a terrorist and the state will deal with such elements with iron hand. He said killing innocent people in the name of religion has nothing to do with Islam and Islamic teachings. The interior minister emphasised terrorists and extremists to lay down weapons and accept writ of the State and the Constitution. He assured that suggestions of Ulama and Mashaikh would be incorporated to root out terrorism from the country. In his remarks, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said time has come that Ulama and Mashaikh should come forward and play their active role to reforms the society. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Kha-beer Azad asked the participants to play

overwhelming role to save the country today as was played by Ulama and Mashaikh during independence of Pakistan. He said more than one thousand Ulama and religious scholars belonging to all

schools of thought have signed a decree and narrative under Paigham-e-Pakistan, declaring unanimously that suicide attacks, armed insurgency against the state and the use of force in the

name of enforcing Shariah is 'Haram' or forbidden in Islam. He assured the Interior Minister that Ulama are standing by the government and the state in its war against terrorism and extremism.

