

Islamabad POST

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Michel Barnier named by Macron as new French PM

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SHC suspends KU syndicate decision

Detailed News On Page-08



Sinner sets up Draper semi-final

Detailed News On Page-06



DG ISPR over Gen Faiz arrest

Law takes its course if anyone works for personal gains

Spokesperson of armed forces says the "military is a national army which has no political agenda"

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry has said the law takes its own course if a person from the Pakistan Army "works for personal gain or promotes a specific agenda". He made these comments in light of former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lieutenant General (retd) Faiz Hamid arrest by the army and inquiry over allegations of land grabbing and snatching valuables from the owner of a private housing society. "A petition was filed against Gen (retd) Faiz in the Top City case and a high-level court inquiry was ordered in April 2024," the army's top spokesperson told reporters during a press briefing held at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Lt Gen Chaudhry said action will be taken against whoever is involved no matter what position or status they hold. However, he added that who is court-martialed has the right to present evidence and to appeal. The ISPR's director-general also stressed that the military is a national army which has no political agenda, adding that the Pakistan Army believes in the process of self-accountability. "Pakistan Army is neither against nor in favour of any political party," highlighted the Lt Gen, stressing there will be no compromise on national security. He added that the army's accountability system is comprehensive and transparent and it works on concrete evidence not on allegations. Speaking about the security situation of the country, the military spokesperson said the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) carried out 32,173 IBOs against terrorists and their facilitators across the country in the first eight months of the ongoing year - of which 4,021 were carried out in the last one month. Meanwhile, at least 90 Khawarij were sent to hell in the past 30 days in these IBOs, he said, adding that the army and LEAs have cleared an

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Govt, opp make major breakthrough in talks

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, government and opposition members met in the Speaker's chamber to discuss key national issues, including the possibility of convening an All Parties Conference (APC). According to private news channel, the discussions also focused on creating consensus on the situation in Balochistan and reviewing proposals to address the region's challenges. The meeting saw the participation of the opposition delegation, including Barrister Gohar, Asad Qaiser, and Amir Dogar. The government was represented by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Rana Sanaulah, and Khalid Magsi. Sources indicate that there was a detailed consultation on the resignation of Sardar Akhtar Mengal, as both sides explored options for a unified response. The breakthrough in talks is seen as a positive step towards bridging the gap between the government and opposition, with ongoing dialogue aimed at resolving pressing national issues.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with COAS General Asim Munir present in the concluding session of the Army War Game. - DNA

PM lauds Army's role for peace

ISPR says premier briefed on recently concluded wargame, operational readiness of armed forces

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Addressing the concluding session of the Army War Game in Rawalpindi on Thursday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif acknowledged the pivotal role of the armed forces in maintaining strategic stability in the region, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The premier was comprehensively briefed on the recently concluded wargame and operational readiness of the Pakistan Army across the full spectrum of threat, as per the military's media wing. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar,

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'Like to die in prison'

Imran Khan vows to resist 'forces of tyranny,' even in jail

Former PM accused the authorities of lacking wisdom and leading the country towards turmoil

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has vowed to resist the "forces of tyranny," even if it means dying in prison. In a candid conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan criticised the country's decision-makers, claiming they lack wisdom and are leading the country into turmoil. "I am being told to explain how I dared to stand up to the powerful. Let me make it clear: I would rather die in prison than bow to the modern-day Yazid," the PTI founder said. He also expressed his concerns about the state of Pakistani cricket, describing recent developments, including Bangladesh's win over Pakistan, as disastrous. He accused the authorities of making decisions without accountability and prioritising personal interests. The PTI founder believes the country is on the brink of revolution and suggested that the events of 8 February should have been a wake-up call for those in power. Further on, he condemned the treatment of his wife, Bushra Bibi, who has been in jail for seven months, claiming it was a means to teach him a lesson for standing

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Imran will not face military trial: Omar Ayub

There is no evidence of PTI's involvement in the events of May 9: Omar Ayub

DNA

SARGODHA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Omar Ayub has stated that PTI founder Imran Khan would not face a military trial. Speaking to the media in Sargodha, Ayub declared that PTI leaders undergoing military trials were political prisoners. He also urged Akhtar Mengal to withdraw his resignation. He criticised the way government was handling the issues of Balochistan and recent electricity price hikes. Ayub asserted that there was no evidence of PTI's involvement in the events of

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Court suspends KP CM's arrest warrant

Arrest warrant in arms and liquor case suspended after assurance from chief minister's lawyer

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad trial court on Thursday suspended the non-bailable arrest warrant issued against KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in a case pertaining to arms and liquor recovery. Hearing the provincial chief executive's plea, the trial court suspended the arrest warrant on "assurance" of Gandapur's counsel. Meanwhile, a PHC bench - comprising Justice Arshad Ali and Justice Shahid Khan - granted transitory bail to Gandapur and directed him to appear before the relevant courts. The bail petition was filed this morning wherein the provincial chief executive requested the high court to grant transitory bail so that he could appear in the relevant court in the said case.

Saqib Nisar returns to Pakistan

'Allegations circulating on social media are false. I will not respond to them'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former Chief Justice of Pakistan, Saqib Nisar, arrived in Lahore last night, dismissing recent allegations against him as "baseless". Nisar landed at Lahore airport, where he briefly addressed the media. "I have returned to Pakistan. The allegations circulating on social media are false. I will not respond to them," he said. Nisar's return follows his earlier announcement in September that he would come back to Pakistan amid increasing scrutiny regarding,

Departs for Dubai

Mengal rejects calls to withdraw resignation

BNP leader reiterates plight of Balochistan as the reason for his discontent from govt

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP) chief Akhtar Mengal resigned from his National Assembly seat, citing a lack of confidence in both the prime minister and the president. Expressing deep dissatisfaction with the government's handling of Balochistan's issues, he departed for Dubai following his resignation on Thursday. In a tweet before his departure, Mengal revealed that political parties had refused to accept his resignation, a move that left him perplexed. "All political parties have rejected my resignation, which surprises me because I have already resigned and have no intention of remaining part of this Parliament," Mengal wrote. He went on to state that the political parties believe they can convince him to change his mind and seek his forgiveness for their mistakes. However, Mengal stressed that the apology should be directed toward the people of Balochistan, not him.

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Hafiz Naeem calls for national dialogue

The country is facing severe crisis of electricity and gas: JI emir

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has called for national dialogue to steer the country out of prevailing crises. Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Thursday, he said that the issues cannot be resolved by using force and therefore national dialogue is need of the hour. "The country is facing severe crisis of electricity and gas and it is all because of the incompetence of ruling elite," said the JI emir.

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PTI gets permission for rally on Sept 8

The permit specifies that the rally will begin at 4pm and conclude by 7pm

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has granted permission to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a rally in the capital on Sept 8. According to sources, the administration has allowed the PTI to hold the rally at an open avenue near Paswal Road, adjacent to Sangjani. Specific routes have been designated for the PTI supporters to enter Islamabad. The permit specifies that the rally will begin at 4pm and conclude by 7pm.

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Israeli attacks on refugee camps breach of int'l laws

The spokesperson also urged the UN Security Council to play its role to prevent Israeli occupation forces from further attacks against civilians, hold Israel accountable for war crimes

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the assault by the Israeli occupation forces on refugee camps in Jenin and Tulkarm cities of the occupied West Bank, calling it a breach and contempt for international laws. "Targeting individuals sheltered in refugee camps is yet another breach of international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupation forces, demonstrating their contempt for international law and basic tenets of decency and acceptable international behavior. Pakistan calls for an immediate cessation of these raids masquerading as military operations in the West Bank. We believe that the path to lasting peace cannot be achieved through aggression," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. The spokesperson also urged the UN Security Council to play its role to prevent Israeli occupation forces from further attacks against civilians, hold Israel accountable for war crimes, and take measures to protect the Palestinian people. Apprising the media of

Continued on Page 06

Dar vows to advance Commonwealth agenda

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Commonwealth and readiness to play an active role in promoting intra-Commonwealth trade and advancing the Commonwealth agenda on sustainable development. He was talking to Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland in London today. Ishaq Dar highlighted Pakistan's role in spearheading the Commonwealth's youth agenda and appreciated the Secretary-General's support for establishing the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat in Pakistan. Secretary-General Scotland recalled the warm hospitality accorded to her during her first visit to Pakistan last month. She affirmed her desire to work closely

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Business: BUSINESS CLASS PASSENGERS CAN ENJOY 2 NIGHTS FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL.

Bakhtawari visits mausoleum of Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that the entire nation will always feel proud of the way Pakistan's armed forces are offering sacrifices for the defense of the country by foiling the evil designs of the enemy. He paid rich tributes to the martyrs and veterans of war by adding that September 6 is an important day in the national and military history of Pakistan. He mentioned this in his remarks during his visit to the ma-

soleum of Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider in Mehfooza Bad, old Pind Malkan, Rawalpindi.

He laid a floral wreath at the martyr's mausoleum, offered Fateha and registered his remarks in the visitors' book. He said that the shining stars of Pakistan who laid down their lives for the security of the country undoubtedly deserve honour and respect, adding that the love for the army is deep-rooted in the nation which is strengthening with the passage of each and every day. Headed that the enemy is actively involved in conspiracies to destroy

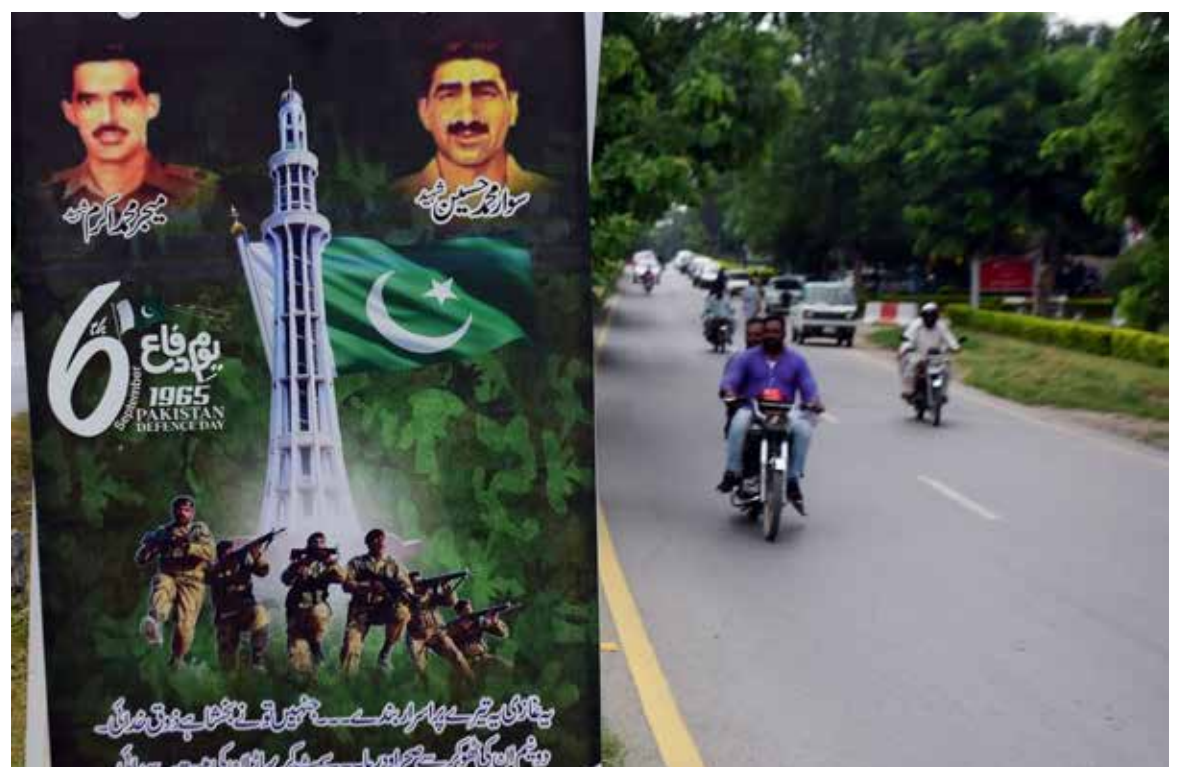
our unity but our armed forces with the fullest support of the nation will never let it succeed in its ugly designs. ICCI President also visited the family of the Shaheed and paid rich tributes to all the defenders of the country, especially Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz.

It is noteworthy that Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz born on October 15, 1944, in Pind Malakan, a village in Rawalpindi was enrolled in Pakistan Army on October 25, 1962. After training, he joined the 15th Punjab Regiment and during the 1971 war he was part of the operation in the Wahga-Attari sector.

'School nutrition programme' in various cities started

Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat briefed the CM about the pilot project. "Chief Minister's School Nutrition Programme" has been launched in three districts of south Punjab including Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, and Muzaffargarh. Over 400,000 students suffering from malnutrition would be given nutritious milk packs under the programme

DG KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the country's first and the largest school nutrition programme in the province by personally distributing milk packs among children in every class at the Government Primary School, here on Thursday. She distributed milk cartons among students at their seats and opened the milk packs for the children and supervised the consumption. She asked students their names and praised them, and sat amongst them, leaving them surprised and overjoyed. CM Maryam Nawaz inquired about the children's health and education and asked them about the problems they faced in their studies. A student told the CM about his father's unemployment, and she directed the authorities concerned to arrange for a job for the young student's father. Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat briefed the CM about the pilot project. "Chief Minister's School Nutrition Programme" has been launched in three districts of south Punjab including Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, and Muzaffargarh. Over 400,000 students suffering from malnutrition would be given nutritious milk packs under the programme. Students in 3,527 schools in Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh would receive a 175-milliliter milk pack daily. Students will return empty packs of milk at school. Revenue from recycling the empty packs will be spent on the respective schools, he explained. Students were given an opportunity to have photographs with CM Maryam Nawaz, and she also gave them autographs. Later, upon arrival at the Commissioner's Office, Maryam Nawaz was saluted by a smartly dressed Border Military Police squad. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, provincial ministers Azma Zahid Bukhari, Rana Sikandar Hayat, MPA Saniya Ashiq, Nosheen Adnan, Sher Ali Gorchani, Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, schools secretary, commissioner, RPO and other officials were also present.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: A view of a banner installed at a highway of Federal Capital, in connection with Defence Day to pay homage to the martyrs of the Pakistan's armed forces who have sacrificed their lives for the defence of the motherland. ONLINE

Young man found dead in house

HAVELIAN: A young man on Thursday was found dead in Rashida Nullah an area of Havelian police station, the victim, identified as Faisal Khan. According to the police report, Riaz Khan resident of Mohalla Bilal in Havelian, informed the police his son Faisal (22) had gone to sleep in the lounge last night, securing the door from the inside, and in the morning he was found dead. The victim was found with a gunshot wound to his forehead and evident signs of physical assault on his body. The police have registered a case under section 302 and started an investigation.—APP

Two labourers electrocuted

SARGODHA: Two labourers were electrocuted to death while working in an under-construction building here at Noor Purr Noon village on Thursday. Bhera police said that the deceased—Imran and Husnain touched live electric rod during work which resulted into their on the spot death.—APP

AJK Anti-Corruption Force gets new weapons to fight corruption

MIRPUR-AJK: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Anti-Corruption Department has been equipped with the latest arms and ammunition, empowering it to swiftly respond to any potential resistance from corrupt elements including those within the state's functionaries, on Thursday. According to official sources, this strategic move initiated under the vision of AJK Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Chaudhry, aims to eradicate corruption from its roots and ensure a corruption-free state machinery and society. To assess the quality of the newly acquired weapons, a test firing was conducted at the Police Lines firing range

in the AJK capital, Muzaffarabad. The event was attended by senior officials, including Director General Anti-Corruption Chaudhry Mukhtar Hussain, Superintendent Police Anti-Corruption Mohammad Saleem Durrani and other department personnel. In his remarks, the Director General of the AJK Anti-Corruption Department expressed gratitude to the government for providing the necessary resources to improve the department's operational capabilities. He reaffirmed the department's unwavering commitment to eradicating corruption from the region, stating that the crackdown against corrupt elements

will continue until they are eliminated. The DG also emphasized the need for specialized training programs to ensure the Anti-Corruption Department is equipped with the skills and knowledge required to tackle modern-day corruption challenges. He also acknowledged the valuable assistance provided by the police officers of Pakistan in the successful completion of the test firing program. The reinforcement of the AJK Anti-Corruption Department's firepower is a clear indication of the government's determination to combat corruption and uphold the principles of transparency and accountability in the region.—APP

Message of Naval Chief on the eve of Defence Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: September 6th stands as a defining moment in our nation's history, when the indomitable Armed Forces of Pakistan exhibited unparalleled resilience, valour and unwavering determination in the defence of our country. This chapter, etched in glory, fills every heart with pride as we honour the profound patriotism, unmatched professionalism and immense sacrifices made in the face of enemy's sinister designs. This day sends a powerful message: defence of our motherland is impregnable and as united people, we are resolute in our ability to safeguard the sovereignty of this land. Today, we pay tributes to the courageous heroes



who were audacious in their planning, undaunted in their action and instilled fear in the hearts of our enemy. Pakistan Navy's Operation "SOMNATH" remains a shining example to this unflinching resolve, as PN Task Group destroyed Indian radar station and shore installations at Dwarka, establishing uncontested dominance at sea from the very outset of the conflict. In the annals of his-

tory, this action as well as mere presence of PNS/M GHAZI in the Indian Ocean confined the Indian Fleet within harbours, too petrified to venture out into the open seas. 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 - the lifeblood of our economy. The latest additions to Pakistan Navy Fleet are ushering in a new era of deterrence, underscoring our relentless pursuit of formidable defence to ensure vibrant economic activities and national prosperity. We resolve to build a strong Naval presence that not only protects our interests but also propels

our nation to an elevated and rightful stature in the comity of nations. On this day of national cohesion and enthusiasm, we pledge ourselves anew to the noble cause of securing Pakistan's maritime frontiers and economic interests. We dedicate ourselves to the visionary principles of our Quaid infusing the spirit of brotherhood and equality in a united homeland for all its citizens. With deep gratitude, we honour the sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, whose legacy inspires us to remain vigilant and well-prepared to deal with any eventuality. All the Officers, CPOs/Sailors and Navy Civilians reaffirm their resolve to defend our maritime frontiers with absolute faith in Allah SWT and trust in our sacred cause.

"National Defence & Air Force Days Cycle Race" on Sept 8

KARACHI :Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), under the aegis of Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) will organize National Defence and Air Force Days Cycle Race from Karachi to Hyderabad on Sunday, September 8. This mega competition will be contested by both Elites and Amateur men cyclists whereas an open cycle race for Elite women will also be held. The Elites representing all affiliated units of PCF will arrive in Karachi on September 7, 2024. The race will feature top cyclists from across the country, highlighting the growing popularity and competitive spirit of cycling in the country specially after SSGC's cyclist Ali Ilyas created history by securing two gold medals for Pakistan in recently concluded Asian Cycling Championship held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This mega event cycle race is being organized to demonstrate the greater spirit of solidarity with our armed forces and to pay rich tributes to our martyrs. Cycle Race to be kicked off from SSGC's head office at 09:00 am and will conclude at Hyderabad Toll Plaza. The event will also mark the presence of PCF's President, Syed Azhar Ali Shah along with other officials, Secretary SSGC Sports Board, Asif Ansari has been nominated as Chairman Organizing Committee by PCF whereas, SSGC's Sardar Nazakat Ali will be the Organizing Secretary.—APP

AJK prepares to celebrate Pakistan's Defence Day

MIRPUR-AJK: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is all set to commemorate Pakistan's Defence Day on September 6 with great enthusiasm here on tomorrow (Friday). According to official sources, the day will be marked by a renewed commitment to stand united with the country's armed forces and protect the nation's borders against all threats. This day holds historical significance as it marks the anniversary of the 1965 war when Indian forces attempted to infiltrate Pakistan under the cover of darkness. The Pakistani military and nation successfully repelled this attack. In AJK, the day will begin with special prayers for the stability, defense and prosperity of Pakistan as well as for the success of the Kashmir freedom movement and economic development in the region. Fateha and Quran Khawani will be held in honour of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the war. Ceremonies will take place across all ten district headquarters including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Bagh although they will be conducted with simplicity in light of recent flood damage in the country. Speakers at these events will pay tribute to the bravery of Pakistan's armed forces. In Mirpur, special ceremonies and rallies will be organized to express solidarity with the nation and the armed forces. Various social and political organizations will host these events and attendees will visit the mausoleums of martyrs to offer prayers and lay wreaths. AJK TV and local radio stations will broadcast special programs to highlight the significance of Defence Day and honour the sacrifices made by Pakistan's military.—APP

AIOU fosters skills-based education & industry ties

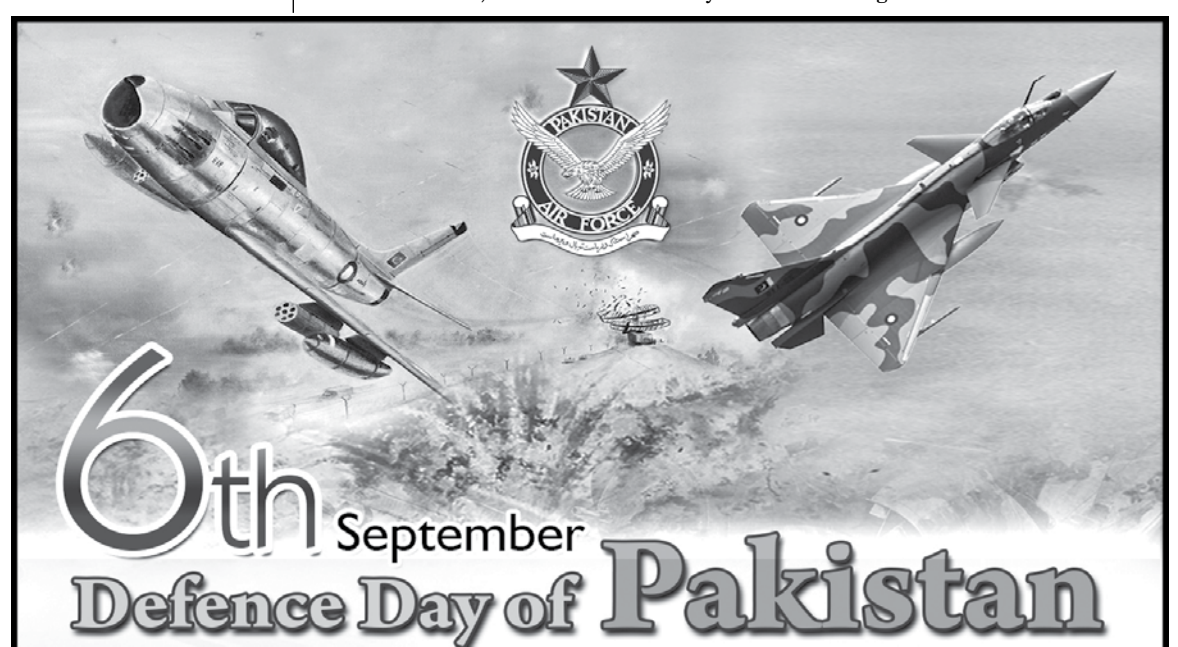
The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the interns, acknowledging their contributions and achievements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) recently held a ceremony organized by its Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) to enhance collaboration between industry and students. During the event, certificates were awarded to 10 students from Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges who completed internships in various departments of the

university. Professor Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad, former Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, praised the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Dr. Nasir Mahmood for focusing on capacity building and skills-based education for the younger generation. He congratulated the students on their achievements and emphasized that skilled youth are essential for Pakistan's future. Industry experts in attendance stressed the importance of job-oriented education, noting that

graduates often face challenges in securing employment. They underscored the need to strengthen connections between students and industries, with ORIC serving as a crucial platform. Dr. Saima Nasir expressed optimism about the potential of youth and highlighted the opportunities provided by the university to showcase student research work. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the interns, acknowledging their contributions and achievements.



Defence Day of Pakistan is a lasting reminder of sacrifice, valour and professionalism displayed by the Armed Forces of Pakistan and the matchless unity shown by the nation. On this historic day, the enemy, dreaming of a quick victory, launched a massive attack against a peaceful country - Pakistan. However, little knowing of our indomitable will to fight, the aggressor faced remarkable resistance against expectations and was finally routed.

My Dear Countrymen! Pakistan is currently passing through a restructuring phase which entails our ancestral spirit of patriotism and unity, as usually exhibited. I am sure that together we can overcome every challenge. On this day of national pride, I assure the nation that Pakistan Air Force, as always, is ever ready to display its capability and endurance in testing times to ensure sovereignty of Pakistan Airspace. In this connection, PAF has recently made enormous strides in technological advancement through induction of niche technologies as well as vigorously pursuing a comprehensive indigenization strategy for achieving self-reliance, which indeed is the need of the hour.

While commemorating Defence Day, we also acknowledge the sacrifices of our Kashmiri brethren who have been fighting against occupation for over seven decades and renew our pledge to support their just struggle for freedom and self-determination.

May Allah Almighty give us strength and courage to defend our beloved country, Aameen!

Pakistan Air Force Zindabad!
Pakistan Paidabad!

Air Chief Marshal
Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M)
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION



National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
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CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Govt committee to support youth of Pak, says Mashood

Zahid, who is set to face Indian wrestler Singham Dubey in a much-anticipated bout, vowed to give his best performance and win the title for Pakistan. Athar Zahid conveyed his gratitude to the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and its chairman for the unwavering support and encouragement he has received

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, held a meeting today with Pakistan's rising wrestling star, Athar Zahid, who will represent the country at the Wrestling World Championship in Nepal, scheduled for 4th October 2024.

During the meeting, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan expressed his best wishes to Athar Zahid, acknowledging his commitment and determination to bring the championship title home. Zahid, who is set to face Indian wrestler Singham Dubey in a much-anticipated bout, vowed to give his best performance and win the title for Pakistan. Athar Zahid conveyed his gratitude to the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and its chairman for the unwavering support and encouragement he has received. Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan reaffirmed the programme's commitment



to support young athletes, stating that Pakistan's youth possess immense talent, and with the right platform, they can achieve international recognition and success. The Wrestling World Championship will be held in Nepal, and Athar Zahid's performance is eagerly anticipated by his supporters across the country.

Sheikh Aftab calls for immediate appointment of PBM MD

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister Sheikh Aftab Ahmed on Thursday called for the urgent appointment of a Managing Director for Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) to ensure the smooth functioning of the organization. Speaking in the National Assembly, he highlighted how the absence of the MD is negatively impacting the department's operations, leaving the poor and needy without adequate support. Sheikh Aftab recalled the effective functioning of PBM during the tenure of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, emphasizing the critical role the organization played in providing welfare assistance to the underprivileged.—APP

Lt Gen Satti to head FPSC

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to appoint Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti as FPSC chairman, it has been learnt. According to sources, the president has approved his appointment on the advice of the prime minister. He will take charge of the post after his retirement from the army. The post of FPSC chairman has been lying vacant since August 2023 and thus the meeting of Central Selection Board could not be held.—APP

ANF recovers 4.4 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover 4.4 kg drugs worth Rs 1.2 million and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed 1 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a college in Attock. In second operation, 2 kg hashish was recovered near Sher Shah Toll Plaza and an accused was arrested. In third operation, 1.2 kg charas was recovered from an accused netted near DG Khan, Tummi Mor. 260 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for UK at a cargo office at Lahore Airport. Cases under Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

OEC offering paid internship

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), facilitates manpower export and emigration under G-to-G arrangements. In alignment with the National Internship Program (NIP), OEC offers paid internships to fresh graduates and postgraduates, providing practical skills and professional experience in a dynamic environment. An official source told APP, he said that currently, internships are available in the following disciplines including Discipline & Positions, Management Sciences (01 Position), Information Technology / Computer Science (01 Position), Planning & Development (01 Position), Finance, Accounting, and Economics (01 Position). He said that the internship will initially be for six months, with the possibility of an extension for an additional six months based on performance and the fulfilment of program objectives. Internships will not exceed a total of 12 months (1 year), eligibility criteria & monthly remuneration. Applicants must hold a degree from an HEC-recognized university, specific qualifications required for each department are, Graduate (14 Years of education) – Rs. 20,000, Post Graduate (16 Years of education) – Rs. 25,000, specialization after post-graduation (18 years of education) – Rs. 30,000. Candidates with degrees from HEC-recognized universities, obtained within the last two years, and with a minimum of 3.0 CGPA or 70% marks, will be eligible for the OEC Internship Program, provided their qualifications are in the specified disciplines. Applicants should be no older than 30 years, with age calculated as of the application deadline. Gender: Males/Females can apply. The general terms & conditions, Interns are responsible for arranging their own laptops and transportation during the internship program. — APP

APHC pays glowing tributes to 1965 war heroes

DNA


ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), while greeting Pakistan on its Defense Day, has paid glowing tributes to the heroes of 1965 war who sacrificed lives to defend their motherland and defeated evil designs of the enemy. APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar said 6th September, Pakistan's Defense Day, is the tale of bravery and heroism. On this memorable day the Pakistani nation stood united as one solid edifice to meet the onslaught of the enemy that chose the cover of darkness to achieve its nefarious designs. Strong and prosperous Pakistan is not only a key to the peace in the region but also a guarantee to the success of the

legitimate freedom movement of Kashmiri people, the statement said. The Kashmir dispute, he said, is the main hurdle in the peace in the region. "will remain a dream unless the Kashmir issue is resolved according to UN resolutions and wishes and aspirations of Kashmiris people," he added. The other Hurriyat leaders and parties, including Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Ghulam Nabi War, Fayaz Hussain Jafari, Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi, Muhammad Aaqib, Abdul Samad Inqilabi, Maulana Musab Nadvi, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir in their separate statements said that Indian hegemonic and expansionary designs were a real threat to world peace and peace of south Asia. They said Kashmir is the main cause of enmity between India and Pakistan, adding Pakistan has always supported the just struggle of Kashmiri people for self-determination. It is the real ambassador of Kashmiris who is advocating the Kashmir cause at every international and regional forum, they maintained. Meanwhile, APHC-AJK Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, General Secretary Parvez Ahmad Shah, Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Muhammad Sultan Butt, Zahid Ashraf, Gulshan Ahmed and Imtiaz Wani in their separate statements in Islamabad said Pakistan is the only hope for Kashmiris and thanked Pakistan for its rock-solid support and hoped that Pakistan would further expedite its diplomatic efforts for Kashmir resolution. They said India has declared full-fledged war against Kashmiris and deployed over one

million troops to crush the popular voice of freedom but has miserably failed to conquer unarmed Kashmiris. The APHC-AJK leaders said India has thrust many wars on Pakistan to punish it for supporting Kashmir cause. It is sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan to destabilize it, they added. Despite all these conspiracies, Pakistan stands like a rock with Kashmiris, they maintained. They said APHC-AJK believes that meaningful and result-oriented dialogue can resolve disputes and bring peace which is vital for the betterment of South Asian people. They said the implementation of UN resolutions in letter and spirit is the most viable solution to the Kashmir dispute and urged the UN to take concrete steps for settlement of the Kashmir dispute and restore its lost credibility and glory.

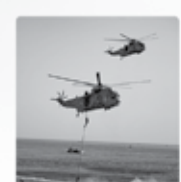



ICT Police conduct search operation


ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a search operation within the jurisdiction of the Sabzi Mandi police station and held sixteen individuals. A police public relations officer said on Thursday that, following the special directives of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Inspector General (IG) police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi the search and combing operations are being conducted across the district to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens. Following these directives, a search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Sabzi Mandi police station jurisdiction. He said a heavy contingent of police under the supervision of SP industrial area Zone took part in the search operation. Lady Police Force also participated in the search operation, he added. Before the operation, SP industrial area Zone briefed the personnel about the details of the operation, stating, "The purpose of the search operation is to tackle crime in the area." During the search and combing operation, 165 individuals, 35 shops, inns, hotels, and motels were thoroughly checked. Additionally, 35 motorcycles and vehicles were inspected, leading to the detention of sixteen suspects who were transferred to the police station, he added. — APP







DEFENDING OUR SHORES... DEFENDING OUR NATION

As we commemorate Defence Day on September 6th, we honour the unyielding courage and sacrifices of our brave defenders, who stood guard against all threats to our sovereignty. In a significant boost to our maritime defence, Pakistan Navy is proud to induct two cutting-edge warships into its fleet; PNS BABUR and PNS HUNAIN. These advanced state-of-the-art vessels will exponentially enhance Navy's surveillance and patrolling capabilities, fortifying our maritime borders and ensuring the security of nation's vital interests.



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Briefs

USC
announces
10% discount
on around
800 items

ISLAMABAD: In order to provide relief to the masses and make essential items more affordable, the Utility Store Corporation (USC) on Thursday announced upto 10 percent discount on around 800 items of different 48 brands with immediate effect. The prices of various brands of ghee, cooking oil, tea, surf, noodles, ketchup, tetra pack milk, dry milk, spices, pickles, soap, toothpaste and other items have been reduced by Rs.8 to Rs.200, said a news release. Notably, the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) subsidy at USC is currently suspended, which will be restored very soon under the new mechanism. The USC management has embarked on a new strategy with renewed determination to provide excellent service. Meanwhile, practical steps are being taken to provide customer with the best facilities and to ensure the abundance supply of standard and quality items. —APP

Speaker
NA warns
all principal
accounting
officers to
take house
serious

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday warned the principal accounting officers of all ministries to take parliament seriously otherwise a resolution would be passed against those secretaries who were not taking this august House seriously. While expressing displeasure for not provision of timely written reply to a question raised by Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi Hashaani, the Speaker said that despite a lapse of around one month, the ministry failed to provide answer to the question. He summoned the Secretary of Water Resources to inquire about the delay in the written response to the question. —APP

Waris Khan
Police arrest
three in acid
throwing case

RAWALPINDI: Waris Khan Police here on Thursday arrested three accused in acid throwing case, said a police spokesman. He informed that City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani taking notice of acid throwing on a woman in the Waris Khan area ordered immediate legal action against the accused. Waris Khan police conducted raids and managed to net the ex-husband of the victim namely Shakeel, his two brothers, Adeel and Khalil. A case of the incident has been registered in Waris Khan Police Station on the complaint of the victim. Medical examination of the victim was carried out while the accused were being interrogated in custody, he said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Investigation Saba Sattar is directly supervising the investigation, the spokesman informed. —APP

Aleem vows
to ensure
provision
of quality
products

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan informed the National Assembly that the ministry will ensure market prices and quality of items being sold at tuck shops and restaurants on motorways. Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the exorbitant prices of food items at service areas on Motorways and National Highways, he said that local magistrates of provincial governments have the authority to monitor prices and product quality. He acknowledged that overpricing is occurring at tuck shops and assured that action will be taken to ensure products are sold at controlled prices. —APP

Turkish Ambassador calls
on Interior Minister Naqvi

Pakistan's Army, Police, Rangers, FC, and every segment of the nation has made history by rendering invaluable sacrifices. He said that Pakistan would welcome Turkiye's cooperation in counter-terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday called on Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the Ministry of Interior to discuss Pakistan-Turkey relations and matters of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of counter-terrorism, police, and civil armed forces, as well as to increase the number of flights between Pakistan and Turkey. Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Balochistan, saying that Turkiye had also faced terrorism in the past but had overcome it and now the situation is much better. He offered Turkiye's full cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. The Interior Minister stated that Pakistan as a nation has made immense sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He said that Pakistan's Army, Police, Rangers, FC, and every segment of the nation has made history by rendering invaluable sacrifices. He said that Pakistan would welcome Turkiye's cooperation in counter-terrorism. Mohsin Naqvi said that he will visit Turkiye in October at the invitation of the Turkish Government and will propose measures to further strengthen bilateral cooperation during the said visit. He said that Pakistan wants to further strengthen its brotherly relations with Turkiye. He highlight-



ed that Pakistanis consider Turkey as their second home. The Interior Minister appreciated Dr. Pacaci's services in strengthening Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations. He congratulated him on his appointment as Special Envoy of the OIC for combating Islamophobia and expressed good wishes for his new assignment and future endeavours. Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his cooperation during his tenure as ambassador in Pakistan.

Terrorists, anarchists
deserve no mercy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Thursday that the will of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) to combat terrorism is admirable. He said that Asim Munir is improving Army professionalism and the accountability system, which is going down very well with the masses. For the country to survive, there must be no mercy for terrorists, their supporters, and their sympathizers, he added. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the actions of COAS have improved the image of this important institution, which is very important for national security. The business lead-

er said that a strong army is fundamental to the country's survival. It must be fully equipped with equipment and an intelligence system, and above all, it requires the support of the masses to carry out its duties. He observed that the army chief's actions rapidly improved the Army's image among the public. A recent Corps Commander's Conference clearly stated that the Army is an structured organization in which everyone is loyal to the institution and the state. The Army upholds its values through strict accountability, leaving no room for bias. This has been said at a time when, for the first time in the country, strict court martial proceedings are underway against top military officials. Action against top officials found violating Army discipline has increased the Army's

reputation. At the same time, this decision has given the people in the institution strict warnings for violating discipline. Participants of the Corps Commanders Conference offered Fateha. They paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives for peace and stability in Pakistan. Recognizing the urgency and significance of a robust and effective legal system, the army chief emphasized that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and law enforcement agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists and mafias. The forum also expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against il-

legal spectrum operating in collusion with terrorist networks. It underscored the critical need to safeguard national cyberspace through stringent cybersecurity measures. The Corps Commander's Conference announcement has made the public aware of the Army's thinking and intentions. It has also made it clear that operations against terrorists will continue and that national security will not be compromised. During this conference, the COAS has made it clear that no exception will be taken from terrorists and anarchists, and their facilitators will also be brought to an end. He said that the country is currently in a critical time, so the people and all the political forces should put aside their interests and strengthen the hands of the Army so that it can adequately discharge its duties.

21st Int'l 3P Plas
print pack Pak
exhibition

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: 21st International 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan - Country's Pioneer and Biggest Exhibition for Plastic, Printing and Packaging industry organized by Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. opened its doors on 5th September 2024 at Expo Centre, Lahore. The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest Kashif Anwar - President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Saleem Khan Tanoli - CEO Fakt Exhibitions in the presence of other renowned industry names. On this occasion Kashif Anwar stated that "Fakt Exhibitions has taken a wonderful initiative by organizing 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Exhibition, which provides a rewarding opportunity for Plastic, Printing and Packaging industry to demonstrate state-of-the-art machinery and technology. He further added that exhibitions like 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan have played a pivotal role in strengthening the industries, providing business, employment opportunities, uplifting the trade and economy of Pakistan." Saleem Khan Tanoli said that "3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Exhibition plays a crucial role in advancing the industry. It serves as an important platform for professionals to stay updated on the latest trends and technological developments, strengthening the ties between industry players and buyers. The mega exhibition received an overwhelming response, more than 300 exhibiting companies from 15 countries including Austria, China, Germany, Iran, Italy, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UAE, UK, USA and Vietnam etc. displayed a wide and exquisite range of innovative machinery, technology and solutions.

Jam Kamal
assures to
address
compensation
issue

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday assured that he would convey the matter of compensation for the victims of the cylinder blast in Hyderabad to the Prime Minister. Responding to a point raised by Wasim Hussain in the National Assembly, the minister said, "I will convey to the Prime Minister regarding the compensation and the process will be expedited." He also noted that, as advised by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), individuals involved in the sale of gas are required to strictly follow the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). —APP

Dr. Qidwai
warns against
screen
addiction

ISLAMABAD: In a wake-up call to the nation, Dr. Umair Qidwai, a leading eye specialist Thursday exposed the shocking truth about the long-term effects of excessive screen time on our eye health, urging individuals to take immediate action to protect their vision. By encouraging children to spend time outdoors, parents can help them discover a world of wonder and awe, beyond the confines of a screen, he said while talking to a private news channel. Dr. Qidwai noted that outdoor play not only benefits eye health but also fosters creativity, social skills, and emotional well-being. He has issued a stark warning about the devastating consequences of our modern habit of excessive screen time, revealing the alarming risks to our eye health and vision. Dr. Qidwai also highlights the risks associated with blue light exposure, a common feature of digital devices. Prolonged exposure to blue light has been linked to an increased risk of macular degeneration, a leading cause of vision loss in older adults. Dr. Qidwai stresses that parents and caregivers play a critical role in protecting children's eye health. By monitoring screen time, encouraging outdoor activities, and teaching children safe usage practices. —DNA

Defence Day - A tribute to
unyielding spirit of Armed Forces

ISLAMABAD: Amidst challenges of maintaining domestic peace in the wake of foreign-sponsored terror onslaught, the nation is celebrating another Defence Day on September 06 - a day steeped in history, valor and national pride. Every year, this day reminds us of our obligations to the sacrifices of men and women in uniform who had defended nation's sovereignty over the decades from the battlefields of 1965 and 1971 to the icy heights of Kargil and through the tumultuous War on Terror. Hats off to our defence forces for always standing as a bulwark against aggression, both external and internal and no matter it is full-fledged war or terrorism threats, the legacy of sacrifices continues to inspire and

unite the nation. The origins of Defence Day trace back to 1965 Indo-Pak War, beginning with escalating tensions over the disputed region of Kashmir and culminating into a full-scale conflict between India and Pakistan as India on September 6, 1965, launched a surprise attack on Lahore, aiming to capture the city. The Pakistani military, despite being outnumbered, mounted a fierce defense. The battle of Lahore and another key engagement in Sialkot and the defense of the strategic Chamb sector highlighted the courage and resilience of Pakistani soldiers. Heroes like Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, who received Nishan-e-Haider for his gallantry, became symbols of national pride. On the night of September 5-6 Indian army, without a

formal declaration of war, crossed the international border, launching attacks on Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan's Army and Air Force halted the offensive, inflicting significant casualties on the aggressor. Besides Lahore and Kasur, an Indian Army Corps also launched a major thrust east of Sialkot with armored and infantry divisions, supported by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support). This prompted a swift response from Pakistan, with a 30-mile front established to halt the enemy's advance at Chawinda front. This sector witnessed the largest tank battle since World War II, led by 6 Armored Division, valiantly supported by 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and 4 Corps Artillery. —APP

Committee discusses
revival of agri economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan conducted a visit to the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) today to assess its operations and performance. During the visit, committee members toured various scientific laboratories and received briefings from the Chairman of NARC. The Chairman detailed the functionality of the labs and the processes involved in the preservation and cultivation of different plant types before they are harvested. The Chairman also provided insights into

the historical evolution of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), its establishment as the National Food Security and Research Division, and its affiliation with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R). Both organizations collaborate on research across various fields to enhance productivity. The committee was informed about the governance structure, which includes a board of governors, a chairman, an executive committee, and the IPARCC committee. Additionally, they learned about PARC's technical divisions, such as the PSD, NRD, ASD, and SSD. Financial briefings included details of the budget over

the past three years. For the fiscal year 2023-24, the total budget was Rs. 6,575.65 million, with Rs. 1,062.25 million allocated for operational expenses and Rs. 5,512.40 million for establishment costs. The staff at PARC/NARC includes 2,135 individuals, comprising 544 scientists and 435 para-scientific staff. The committee also reviewed research achievements, including advancements in plant genetic resources and the development and release of new varieties and hybrids. Financial updates since 2013 highlighted a research budget increase to Rs. 300 million in 2023-24, an educational stipend increase to Rs. 1.135 million.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Six Israelis vs 41,000 Palestinians

ON September 1, 2024, 27 Palestinian families woke up to mourn their loved ones, including at least 11 who were killed at a supposedly "safe" shelter, in Safad School in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood east of Gaza City. On the same day, the Israeli occupation military recovered the bodies of six Israeli captives, who were killed as a direct or indirect result of an Israeli incursion into a tunnel in Rafah. By the end of the day, the smiling faces and names of these six Israelis were prominently featured across digital and print media, while the murdered Palestinians were reduced to mere statistics, nameless and faceless. Both groups, however, share one tragic commonality: their demise was caused by the same killer. Indiscriminate bombing is a murder without distinction. Despite being warned of the risk of attempting to retrieve the captives by force, Netanyahu opted to sacrifice them to eliminate a political burden that could be seen as an obstacle to achieving his "war goals." Their disappearance - by a deal or death - would free Netanyahu's hand and ease pressure from the public, who otherwise supports his war of genocide in Gaza. Inarguably, there is an inherent interest for the Palestinian Resistance in protecting the lives of the Israelis, simply to exchange them with Palestinian hostages held in Israeli jails. On the other hand, the Netanyahu coalition government has a political motive to reduce the value of Israeli captives in the hands of the Palestinians, and their death could be an option. The Israeli public protesting in the streets today, individually and collectively, is responsible for nurturing Netanyahu's unrealistic war objectives. The findings of a Pew Research poll conducted last March and April revealed that 67% of Israelis supported Netanyahu's "war goals." In fact, a staggering 86% believed Palestinians in Gaza should not have self-governance, not even the Palestinian Authority. Less than half of Israelis supported a prisoner exchange, and 60% opposed halting the war for any such exchange. In December 2023, support for Netanyahu's war goals was even higher, between 76 and 84%. It's significant to mention that the support for the war among Israeli Jews mirrored that of Jewish Americans. In the US, 62% of American Jews approved "Israel's" war conduct, compared to 38% of the general American population. These statistics reflect a broader issue of deep-seated Israeli-Jewish dehumanization of Palestinians. A bigotry germinated in the political Zionist culture, where in the Israeli religious and cultural plurality most Jews perceive themselves to be more equal than non-Jews. Before anyone from the professional victim pack cries out on October 7, this predominant attitude among Israeli Jews is neither an anomaly nor a new phenomenon. In a 2016 poll, an undisputed majority of Jewish Israelis (79%) believed that Jews are entitled to "preferential treatment" over non-Jews. When asked if Palestinians should be deported from their homes, the majority of Israelis agreed. Imagine, the American Jewish leadership protestation if 40% (1/2 of the Israeli percentage) of white or Christian Americans supported a preference over the other. In the meantime, progressive Americans can ruminate on their reaction if a similar percentage of Americans favored expelling Native Americans from their homes.



Global stock sell-off

THE flash crash at the beginning of August saw the Hong Kong stock market fall by as much as 9 per cent in two weeks, bottoming out on August 5 after a sharp 3 per cent fall the night before in the US stock market. This caused a substantial fright among investors, occasioned by some difficult US employment numbers and talk of apparent weakness in the consumer sector. As we know, the markets quickly recovered, with investors using the biggest trawlers they could find to bottom-fish for investments. This has driven equity markets up - to close to their levels in July. On August 5, when market moods were darkest, David Roche and I talked about our views on RTHK's 5pm business programme, *The Close*. Roche is a revered market strategist, and a role model of mine over 30 years ago. Nowadays, we're happy to disagree with each other, as it makes for good radio. Yet we both had the independent conclusion that the market was not going to collapse much further. Since then, I have been trying to figure out why two widely experienced greybeards both came up with that conclusion within hours of the event. Some may say it was a guess; or maybe intuition borne from experience. But we both believed that the market was significantly overreacting to a limited piece of news. This instinct lies in the fact that market crashes require not just one bad narrative, but a combination of narratives coming together to cause a major disruption in the marketplace. This phenomenon is known as the multiple causation theory. Why investors can expect more market volatility after recent global stock sell-off? Multiple causation can be observed in air crashes, where many factors line up to create a disaster. In 1989, for example, British Midland Airways Flight 92 crashed onto a motorway embankment when the pilots were attempting to make an emergency landing after the left engine failed. The experienced pilots of the almost-new Boeing 737-400 reduced thrust and subsequently shut down the right-side engine after smoke got into the air conditioning system. They had wrongly assumed that the right-side engine was at fault. On earlier models of the 737, the cabin ventilated from the right, but the 737-400 used a different system. Shutting down the right-side engine in this case did in fact reduce smoke and vibration coming from the left, and these symptoms reinforced the pilots' belief that the right-side engine was at fault. This left the aircraft with little thrust. The proximal cause was pilot error in determining which engine had failed, which is normally an easy task. This only happened because of multiple issues: limited pilot training on a new aircraft layout; the absence of a 747-400 simulator that could be used for training; the failure by the manufacturer to properly test a new engine type; and pilot checks being interrupted by air traffic transmissions. Ironically, the passengers and cabin crew could see that the left engine was on fire, but it was assumed that the pilots knew this. Multiple causation can also be described as being like a block of Emmental cheese with holes in it. You may not be able to see through the whole block because the holes don't line up but if you cut the cheese into slices and then move them around, you can align the holes to see right through the block. This analogy can also be observed in the stock market. Price movements, especially sharp ones, reflect how people behave. There are many parallels between market behaviour and behaviour in the natural and social sciences.

Dangers ahead as US tries to roll back China in Latin America

Alex Lo

That's pretty apt. The doctrine used to mean Latin America was off limits to the old European imperial powers. Another way of stating or practising it meant the entire region was America's backyard, or sphere of influence, against the Soviet Union in the 20th century. Now, China is the new power that needs to be deterred in Latin America. China has become the region's second-largest trading partner after the United States. Actually, it is the largest - with US\$247 billion in trade in 2022, compared with America's US\$173 billion - if you take Mexico out of the equation. That's because Mexico alone accounts for most of the region's trade with the US. But, Mexico is increasingly asserting its independence from the Americans. And, to Washington's chagrin, at least 20 countries in the region have already joined China's Belt and Road Initiative. Brazil may be next. Commenting on the Belt and Road Initiative, General Laura Richardson, head of the US Southern Command, told the House Armed Services Committee in the US Congress last year: "We've got to pay more attention to this region. The proximity matters. They are on the 20-yard line of our homeland. We are in a neighbourhood, these are our neighbours, and we have got to pay attention to them." Well, that's China barging in, and so Richardson explains, it must be deterred and turned back. Consider three regional examples - Bolivia, Honduras and Mexico - only because they have been in the news in the past few days when it comes to US "hegemonism". It also applies to most other Latin American countries. Bolivia With over 12 million people, Bolivia has the unfortunate distinction of having suffered more coups d'etat than any other country in the world in the two centuries since it gained independence from Spain. Depending on who's counting, it has had 36 to 39 coups during that time. Many of them from the late 19th century onwards had Washington's fingerprints all over them, including the 2019 coup that ousted Evo Morales, the country's first indigenous president. There was another coup in June, but it was poorly executed and quickly collapsed. To date, it's unclear who the plot's real backers were. Bolivia has the world's largest lithium reserves, a mineral essential to making rechargeable batteries in mobile phones and electric cars. That makes it highly strategic to the US. Speaking at the same hearing last year, Richardson made sure her congressional audience understood the significance of what she called the "lithium triangle" encompassing Bolivia, Chile and Argentina, which currently accounts for an es-

timated 60 to 75 per cent of the world's reserves, and the China threat. "China's aggressiveness and the ground game they have with lithium is very advanced and very aggressive," she said. Bolivia, though, takes a different view. It has just given Washington a wide berth. Its salt flat in Salar de Uyuni is home to the world's largest known lithium deposit. It is one of seven lithium-mining sites for which four foreign firms have been short-listed this week in a government tender. These are China's CBC, Italy's Protecco, France's Eramet and Australia's Eau Lithium. CBC and several other lithium-related businesses from China have already had previous deals signed with the government of President Luis Arce. Maybe another coup la General Richardson is in order. Honduras Honduras, a country of slightly under 11 million, has the unfortunate distinction of being the world's second-most sued country at the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. It has had nine investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) cases against it, compared with No 1 Mexico, which has had 10. You may or may not have heard of ISDS but it is the best-kept secret of contemporary Western corporate capitalist imperialism. Yale historian Greg Grandin explains it this way in *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States and the Making of an Imperial Republic*. "Today, countries are forced to agree to something called [ISDS], which means that corporations can sue nations for future profit they might lose, due to regulations aiming to protect public health or the environment," he wrote. "Now common in trade agreements, [the] provision was first established in the Nafta treaty [between Canada, Mexico and the US]." For example, Próspera, a US company backed by Silicon Valley luminaries such as Peter Thiel and Marc Andreessen, launched an ISDS case against Honduras in late 2022 for US\$10.8 billion, equivalent to almost a third of its GDP. The reason? President Xiomara Castro - no relation to the Castro family in Cuba - revealed a "Zone for Employment and Economic Development" for Próspera, which enabled it to create its own non-criminal laws, courts, authorities and taxes. The zone was to have been, in a US magazine profile, a "crypto-libertarian paradise". If these zones sound familiar to Chinese, it's because they do somewhat resemble extraterritorial jurisdictions administered by Western imperial powers in China during the late Qing dynasty after the opium war, but repackaged in modern neoliberal economic terms. In March, the Castro government applied to exit the World Bank's arbitration body, which could set a precedent for other developing countries facing similar claims to follow. However, international commercial law experts think Honduras will still be on the hook with Próspera even if the exit pro-

ceeds. This week though, her government appeared to be on the brink. It has cancelled a 112-year-old extradition treaty with Washington after Laura Dogu, the US ambassador, complained that Honduran Defence Minister Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales and military chief General Roosevelt Hernandez had met last month with Venezuelan Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, whom she described as a "drug trafficker". Zelaya, who is Castro's nephew, has also resigned over an emerging scandal involving his family for allegedly taking money from drug traffickers more than a decade ago. Castro's husband, who has a similar name as the nephew, is a former president who was toppled in a coup allegedly backed by the Pentagon in 2009. It remains to be seen whether the current government will survive. If not, the next administration may be friendlier to the US. Mexico The story this week about Andrés Manuel López Obrador, known as AMLO in the Western mainstream media, is that on his way out of office, he is close to overhauling the country's judicial system, which will ensure judges run for elections and make it difficult for the country's Supreme Court to overturn presidential decisions. In typical fashion, Bloomberg calls it "the democratic backsliding". The *Financial Times* wrote: "[Legal] nightmares like this might happen in Russia but are not what you would expect in a North American nation that is the largest trading partner of the US." The outgoing AMLO has been a thorn in the side of Washington, which has, of course, portrayed the judicial overhaul as the start of a new dictatorship. But AMLO, his successor Claudia Sheinbaum and their ruling Morena party are immensely popular. So perhaps ordinary Mexicans take a very different view about the court reform. Mexico has long been run by an oligarchy dominated by business elites and traditional wealth. Allied mostly with Washington, it fronts politicians to run for top offices, including senior judges and, of course, the presidency. The popularity of AMLO and Morena stem from their willingness and ability to take on this ruling elite. Reforming the judiciary and its ability to override executive decisions is a key part of their campaign. He never forgets that he lost two elections that were tainted with fraud, in 2006 and 2012, to candidates preferred by Washington. Both times, the country's Electoral Court dismissed his challenges despite clear evidence of voting irregularities. Washington has had no problems with stolen elections so long as the candidates it favoured won. As Ambassador Jesus Seade said in a Post interview, "Mexico needs diversification of its political, economic and commercial basket, and China is a key actor of that and a good friend for Mexico." Most Latin American countries could have said the same.

Pakistan Navy: The pragmatic first responder

Sohail A. Azmie

When Yarmook reached the scene of the incident, a boat was found engulfed in flames while the embattled crew was all overboard. It was an Iranian fishing vessel with nine people, who had the unfortunate accident nearly consuming the lives of all hands. Yarmook rescued the crew, extinguished the fire and brought them to safety. In February 2024, in another rescue operation, nine Indian seamen aboard a stranded ocean tug at 167 nautical miles southeast of Karachi, were rescued. There have been, and probably, will be countless such operations necessitating the Pakistan

and challenges in the Arabian Sea, the non-traditional threats have also been becoming conspicuous, which include but are not limited to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, non-combatant evacuation and ensuring maritime security. Under such an operating environment, the navies have to play roles beyond traditional warfighting and defence of maritime frontiers. Pakistan Navy, as part of its "military operations other than war" construct has articulated response mechanics for non-traditional and sub-conventional threats. This requires the Navy's capacity to smoothly perform its roles from benign to constabulary roles. It is always in a 'ready mode' to transition across the roles, which means the gear, the human resource and the doctrinal clarity are always there empowering it to be the pragmatic first responder, irrespective of the task, the time and the locale at sea. The Navy was one of the first in the region to reach Mersin, Turkiye and Latakia, Syria to assist devastating earthquake victims in March 2023. PN ships Moawin and Nasr were ready to sail carrying massive relief goods within days of issuing instructions from the Government. In the catastrophic Tsunami of 2004, PNS Tariq was among the first naval ships to reach the Maldives and assist in rescue operations. Tariq was able to save 377 tourists within a short time. Later on, PN ships Moawin and Khaibar sailed from Karachi with substantial relief goods and field hospital equipment for humanitarian assistance operations in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The Navy remains the frontline responder in domestic crises as well. Its role in Cyclone Yemyin, 2007; Cyclone Phet and Super Floods, 2010; and Floods, 2022, was particularly noteworthy. The Navy rescued thousands of people, provided medical relief and built shelters for the children and the homeless. In June 2011, PN ships Babur and Zulfiqar, in a joint operation rescued MV Suez from the Somali pirates and brought the entire crew back home to safety. Though MV Suez sank because of the number of safety-related incidents human lives were saved. In April 2015, PN ships Zulfiqar and Aslat were deployed to rescue civilians from the war-ravaged zones of Yemen. The ships, acting with exceptional professional acumen and operational brilliance, were able to pull hundreds of people of various nationalities including eleven Indians. This

had a positive impact on Pakistan-India relations. From 2019 to 2022, Pakistan Navy undertook three distinct missions to circumvent Africa, with an objective to deliver relief goods to various African nations suffering from famine and natural disasters. PN ships Moawin, Nasr and Alamgir were tasked to sail from the Suez Canal to go around Africa and assist the African people in whatever way possible. PNS Nasr, in particular carried well over 1000 tons' food items to Benin and Niger in 2020 when these countries have had severe shortage of basic essentials to sustain human life. This unique feat hasn't been done before and Pakistan Navy can rightly claim the title of being the 'first responder' beyond its traditional operational space, the Arabian Sea. Apart from rendering humanitarian assistance, Pakistan Navy has the core job of 'preserving freedom of seas,' which is its guiding doctrinal creed. The Navy believes in working in a 'cooperative continuum,' where on one hand it ensures stable order in its on its own, and on the other it works in collaborative constructs so that our seas remain safe and secure for maritime activities. Domestically, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency work through a joint collaborative mechanism that seeks to keeping the North Arabian Sea crime-free. On several occasions, drug smugglers, human traffickers and poachers have been captured or their attempts thwarted, thereby preserving good order at sea. Cumulatively, the humanitarian work and maritime security operations indicate that Pakistan Navy is the primary force to arrive at the scene of maritime emergencies or crises, not just in the Arabian Sea but at other locations in the Indian Ocean and beyond. As a Pragmatic First Responder, Pakistan Navy has provided and will continue to provide swift assistance, rescue and relief operations to protect lives, secure vessels and ensure the safety of life at sea, often before the arrival of other national or international support. This spirit truly makes Pakistan Navy not just a capable player in the Indian Ocean but, as Ken Booth asserts a true torch bearer of Pakistan's foreign policy.

-The writer is an Islamabad-based researcher. His areas of interest include: Maritime Security, Climate Change and astropolitics).

Briefs

Law takes its course if anyone...

FROM PAGE 01
area of 46,000 square kilometres from terrorists. "There is no area where terrorists are active," he told the reporters. Underscoring the ongoing efforts against terrorism, Lt Gen Chaudhry said that around 130 IBOs are carried out on a daily basis by the Pakistan Army, intelligence agencies, police and LEAs. Revealing the number of martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to defend the motherland in the last eight months, DG ISPR said that 193 officers and soldiers embraced martyrdom in the counter-terrorism operations. Commenting on the recent unrest in Balochistan, the military's spokesperson recalled the attacks carried out by militants on the night between August 25 and 26 in the province. "We know that there is a sense of deprivation in Balochistan [...]. The perpetrators of terrorism have nothing to do with Islam or Balochistan," Lt Gen Chaudhry said. Addressing the militants carrying out terrorist attacks in Balochistan along with those on whose behalf they are being carried out, he gave a clear message that they will be dealt with iron hands. Noting that the war against terrorism was being fought with an integrated strategy, the military's spokesperson ruled out the presence of any no-go areas in the country. "There is no area where terrorists are active," he said. He also called for strengthening the country's criminal justice system. Highlighting the achievements against the militants, he revealed that the army along with the LEAs has cleared an area spanning 46,000 square kilometres from terrorists. The DG ISPR also addressed the spike in terror incidents since the Afghan Taliban-led administration came to power in Kabul, saying those attempting to create discord between the two brotherly nations are "living in an imaginary world".

Mengal rejects calls..

FROM PAGE 01
"They think they can change my mind and apologise for their errors, but they don't need to seek forgiveness from me—apologise to the people of Balochistan. Acknowledge that you have hurt them by taking away their loved ones," he asserted. Mengal further mentioned the tragic cases of Sami Baloch and Dr Mehrang, saying "Apologise to Sami Baloch and Dr Mehrang for killing them when all they wanted was to talk. I am not just Akhtar Mengal; I am part of these people. When you apologise to them, you will be apologising to me as well." He clarified that his resignation was not driven by personal grievances but by a sense of duty. "I have no personal enmity with anyone, but my conscience compelled me to make this decision," he added.

Hafiz Naeem...

FROM PAGE 01
He added that JI staged historical sit-in over the exorbitant power bills. "The government has left with only 17 days to implement the agreement signed with us related to the electricity bills. We'll once again launch our movement if the agreement isn't implemented," he said. The JI had earlier staged sit-in in Rawalpindi over the inflated power bills.

Dar vows to advance...

FROM PAGE 01
with Pakistan on addressing climate change-related challenges and empowering Pakistan's young population. The two leaders also discussed their shared priorities ahead of next month's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa.

Sinner beats Medvedev to set up Draper semi-final

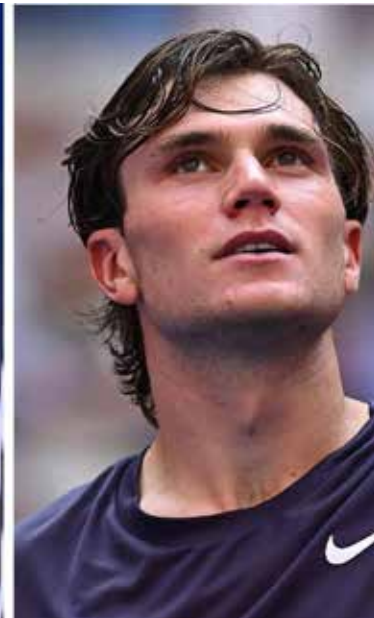
There is now guaranteed to be a first-time US Open winner in both the men's and women's singles, with Americans Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe contesting the second men's semi-final

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: World number one Jannik Sinner beat former champion Daniil Medvedev in a topsy-turvy US Open match to set up a semi-final against Jack Draper. Italy's Sinner was a 6-2 1-6 6-1 6-4 winner over the Russian fifth seed in New York. Sinner, who won the Australian Open in January, and Medvedev were the only two major champions left in the men's draw and the match between them was highly anticipated. However, neither men were able to find their best tennis at the same time. Medvedev, a beaten finalist at Flushing Meadows last year and in 2019, hit six double faults and sprayed 57 unforced errors. While Sinner was not at his most accurate, he was far superior on serve, closing out victory in two hours and 39 minutes. Sinner will now face his occasional doubles partner Draper in Friday's semi-final. "We know each other very well, we are good friends off the court," Sinner said of Draper. "It's going to be very tough - I'm just happy to be in the semis." There is now guaranteed to be a first-time US Open winner in both the men's and women's singles, with Americans Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe con-



testing the second men's semi-final. Sinner and Medvedev have met at three of the four Grand Slams this year, but this match did not fully reach the high quality of their previous outings. Sinner came back from



two sets down against Medvedev to win his maiden Grand Slam title in Melbourne, while Medvedev got his revenge in another five-set match in the Wimbledon last eight in July. Asked to serve first, Medvedev was

immediately under pressure, having to save a break point before being broken to love a few games later. Sinner barely missed a step on serve before the start of the second set, when he was drawn into the longer rallies that Medvedev thrives on. The Russian went up an early break and doubled his advantage after a 10-minute game on the Sinner serve which ended with the Italian dumping a forehand into the net. With the match level, the momentum swung towards Sinner, who reeled off five games in a row and had three set points on the Medvedev serve to register a dreaded 'bagel'. Medvedev managed to scrape one game in the third set and went off court to regroup, but immediately had to recover from 0-30 down in his first service game and a break of serve felt inevitable. Once Sinner secured the decisive break for a 4-3 lead, his quality came through, with victory secured with a stunning forehand winner. Sinner has lost only two hard-court matches this season and won four titles on the surface, including his Australian Open triumph. His most recent success was at Cincinnati in August, winning the title the day before news emerged he had been cleared of any wrongdoing after twice testing positive for a banned substance earlier this year.

Israeli attacks on refugee...

FROM PAGE 01

The recently held 50th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Cameroon and attended by Foreign Secretary Muhammad Sajjad Qazi, she said the forum reaffirmed its consensus on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute by declaring that the final settlement of the dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and a UN-supervised plebiscite was indispensable for durable peace and stability in South Asia. The Yaoundé Declaration also renewed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expressed full support to their right to self-determination, she added. Similarly, she said the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met on the sidelines of the CFM, also reaffirmed support for the Kashmiri people's struggle and called for an early and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. "We welcome the pronouncements of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Contact Group on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," she remarked. She told the media that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, who was currently in the UK on an official visit, met with Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and

Development Affairs, David Lammy and discussed the importance of a strong Pakistan-UK partnership, advancing the wide-ranging bilateral agenda, and promoting Pakistan-UK cooperation in the context of the United Nations and Commonwealth. On Thursday, she said the DPM would meet with the UK's Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner besides engaging with members of the UK Parliament and representatives of the Pakistani community in the UK. Spokesperson Baloch told the media that the 23rd meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade Activity of the SCO member states would be held in Islamabad on September 12. Pakistan has extended invitations to the heads of relevant ministries of all SCO member countries. Responding to a query on the recent statement made on Jammu and Kashmir by India's Minister for External Affairs, the spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's unequivocal rejection of any narrative that suggested that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been or can be settled unilaterally. She said that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was an internationally recognized dispute that must be resolved in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. She told the media that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was expected to attend

the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly, and like every year, Pakistan would highlight the issue of Indian atrocities in the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, among others. Responding to a statement by Bangladesh Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, Spokesperson Baloch said that Pakistan always wished to have robust and multifaceted relations with Bangladesh. There existed an immense goodwill between the people of both countries and the extended cooperation would further contribute to regional peace and friendship in the region, she added. She said Pakistan and China were all-weather strategic partners with multifaceted cooperation. Pakistan remains committed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. Commenting on the new set of laws on women's rights introduced by Afghan Interim Government, she said Pakistan's position on women's and girls' right to education was consistent. Every man and woman has a right to education. As Pakistan's constitution guarantees rights to women, we wish similar rights for every woman. To a question about terror groups in Afghanistan, she said Pakistan, on numerous occasions presented pieces of evidence of activities of terror groups having hideouts in Afghanistan. This is not the concern of mere Pakistan as the UN reports also highlighted the activities of such groups in Afghanistan.

Olympic runner dies after being set on fire

A local administrator revealed that the deceased and her ex-boyfriend were fighting over a piece of land

LONDON: Olympic marathon runner Rebecca Cheptegei has died following a brutal attack by a former boyfriend, who burned her from petrol on Sunday. The Ugandan athlete, who came 44th in the marathon at the Paris Olympics, was injured badly and received extensive burns. The authorities investigating in northwest Kenya reported that the 33-year-old was targeted after returning home from church with her two daughters. Additionally, a local administrator revealed that the deceased and her ex-boyfriend were fighting over a piece of land. It is worth noting that number of cases of violence against female athletes are reported in Kenya. Cheptegei is marked sixth to be killed since October 2021. Following her death, speaking to the journalists, her father, Joseph Cheptegei revealed that his daughter was a "huge support" for the family. Meanwhile, Dr Owen Menach, the head of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, told local media that the athlete had died after all her organs failed. In regard to the athlete's death, Uganda's athletics federation posted on their X handle: "We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our athlete, Rebecca Cheptegei early this morning who tragically fell victim to domestic violence. As a federation, we condemn such acts and call for justice. May her soul rest In Peace." Earlier in 2022, Cheptegei, 33, was awarded with a gold medal at the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand. - Agencies

Imran Khan vows to resist 'forces of tyranny,' even in jail

FROM PAGE 01
up to the powerful. The former prime minister also commented on the ongoing crisis in Balochistan, calling for local body elections instead of appointing figureheads as a solution to the province's issues. He criticised the allocation of resources, arguing that money intended for the province rarely reaches those in need. Additionally, he called for dialogue to address the issue of terrorism, arguing that solutions should involve intelligence, dialogue, and, if necessary, military operations. He questioned why the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is blamed for his policies while the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) operates under similar conditions without accountability. During the conversation, journalists raised concerns about a statement made by Imran's sister, Aleema Khan, accusing several reporters of ties to intelligence agencies. The PTI founder assured them he would address the matter with her, reaffirming his trust in the reporters.

PM lauds Army's role for peace

FROM PAGE 01

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir and senior military officials were in attendance. PM Shehbaz expressed his complete satisfaction on the operational preparedness of the Pakistan Army, acknowledging the pivotal role of our armed forces in preserving the delicate balance of power essential for peace in nuclearised South Asia. He commended the innovative employment concepts and structural reforms aimed at enhancing the deterrence regime which will ensure the imposition of retributive cost on any adversary in the event of aggression. The military leadership reaffirmed their unwavering resolve to safeguard the national sovereignty and territorial integrity at all cost, the ISPR added. It was reiterated that the Pakistan Army remains fully cognisant of the prevailing security challenges and will continue to enhance its capabilities to thwart any aggressive designs against Pakistan, it concluded.

PTI gets permission for rally on Sept 8

FROM PAGE 01

The organisers will be responsible for the participants to remain within the designated boundaries. The administration can revoke the NOC any time due to security concerns.

Imran will not face military trial: Omar Ayub

FROM PAGE 01

May 9 and challenged anyone with proof to come forward. He accused the current government of failing to control inflation and managing corruption inquiries poorly. He further alleged that Mohsin Naqvi was directly involved in the sugar and wheat scandals and criticised the FIA's handling of the wheat scandal under the Minister of Interior. Ayub concluded by questioning the future of the current government, implying that it was poorly managed and unsustainable.

Wasim feels 'embarrassed' following Pakistan's defeat

DNA

LAHORE: Former captain Wasim Akram expressed disappointment following Pakistan's historic defeat against Bangladesh in second Test on September 3 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. "It's a huge setback and our cricket is at a crossroads," Akram told AFP. Before the series, Pakistan were ranked sixth, but these consecutive losses have caused them to slip below the West Indies to eighth, with 76 rating points. Continuing with the conversation, the Sultan of Swing revealed that he was embarrassed from Shan Masood-led side's performance. "For a former player and captain, and a lover of the game, I was left embarrassed at the way they have lost from good positions. I simply don't get it," he said. He added a period to his statement by highlighting the recent continuous losses on home turf. "We are losing consistently on home turf, and that says a lot about the quality of our cricket," he concluded. Pakistan have now lost five straight Tests - three against Australia and two against Bangladesh - in the ongoing World Test Championship. Previously, the national team faced a major setback in the round



stage of both ODI and T20 World Cups over the past year. Pakistan have been defeated by Afghanistan in ODI and the USA in T20I. Meanwhile, Pakistan will play their next Test series against England. This forthcoming series is part of the ongoing International Cricket Council (ICC) World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25. The first Test is scheduled to take place from October 7 to 11 in Multan, the second Test from October 15 till 19 in Karachi, followed by the third from October 24 to 28 in Rawalpindi.

Venue concerns loom ahead of Pakistan-England Test series

This raises possibility of shifting series to United Arab Emirates or SL

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The upcoming Test series between Pakistan and England faces an uncertainty due to unfinished stadium preparations in Karachi, raising the possibility of shifting the venue to United Arab Emirates (UAE) or Sri Lanka. Preparing for the highly-anticipated 2025 Champions Trophy, stadiums in Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi are under development, posing challenges for the Pakistan Cricket Board in hosting matches. This upcoming series is part of the ongoing International Cricket Council (ICC) World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25. The first Test is

scheduled to take place from October 7 to 11 in Multan, the second Test from October 15 till 19 in Karachi, followed by the third from October 24 to 28 in Rawalpindi. Nevertheless, the construction delays acts as a hindrance in holding the series as planned. If the construction is paused, that will impact the mega event of 2025. In addition, hosting matches without spectators is not a favourable option. The cricket body, in response to these issues, plans to consider alternatives such as the UAE or Sri Lanka. However, Abu Dhabi is the only option in the UAE as the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is set to take place in Dubai and Sharjah starting from October 3 to 20. With the final decision yet to be made, the board is expected to announce the final venue after discussing with the ECB in the coming days. It is worth noting that the Green Shirts have recently faced defeat against Bangladesh, falling to eighth position after a surprising series loss. This series against England is a must-win for the team.

Australia break South Africa record against Scotland

The Baggy Greens scored 113 runs with only one wicket down in the first six overs

WEB DESK

SYDNEY: Australia surpassed South Africa after creating a new world record by scoring the most runs in a T20I powerplay during their match against Scotland on Wednesday at the Grange Cricket Club. The Baggy Greens scored 113 runs with only one wicket down in the first six overs. Mitchell Marsh-led side won the toss and decided to bowl, with Scotland making 154/9 in the first innings. George Munsey scored the highest runs; 28, to contribute to the total. Australia's Xavier Bartlett and Adam Zampa bagged two wickets each while right-arm fast-medium bowler Sean Abbott dismissed three players. Rest was handled by Riley Meredith and Cameron Green, taking one wicket each. Continuing with the second innings, Australia had a very shaky start with opening batter Jake Fraser-McGurk getting a duck on the third ball of the first over. This



wicket brought captain Mitchell Marsh, who along with Travis Head turned the tide and scored 39 runs in 12 deliveries while Head made 80 runs from 25 balls. The left-handed batter smashed five sixes and 12 boundaries, while the captain

hit five fours and three sixes, leading to a record-breaking 113 runs for the team within the powerplay.

This surpassed the previous record held by South Africa, who scored 102 not out against the West Indies in 2023. Marsh's impressive innings came to an end in the seventh over with the 32-year-old being caught by Mitchell Leask. Meanwhile, Head continued smashing, propelling Australia to a comfortable victory, chasing the 155-run target in just 9.4 overs with seven wickets in hand. With this remarkable victory, Australia have etched their name in the record books.

Highest Powerplay Scores in T20Is:
• Australia - 113/1 vs Scotland, 2024
• South Africa - 102/0 vs West Indies, 2023
• West Indies - 98/4 vs Sri Lanka, 2021
• West Indies - 93/0 vs Ireland, 2020
• West Indies - 92/1 vs Afghanistan, 2024.

Briefs

Putin backs Harris for US president, with wry smile

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday he supported Kamala Harris in November's US presidential election, an apparent wry remark a day after the United States issued indictments accusing Moscow of vote interference. Putin often comments on political and social issues in the United States, often in a mocking way. He said last year that the US political system was "rotten" and that Washington could not lecture other countries about democracy. US officials have repeatedly warned of efforts by foreign powers to meddle in the upcoming US election, accusing Moscow of seeking to influence US ballots dating back to the 2016 contest between Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. "Firstly, (US President Joe) Biden recommended all his supporters support Mrs Harris," Putin said during a question and answer session at Russia's Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. —APP

Egypt's army chief inspects borders with Gaza

ISTANBUL: Egyptian Army Chief of Staff Ahmed Fathy Khalifa made a surprise visit on Thursday to his country's borders with the Gaza Strip to inspect the security situation there. A military statement said Khalifa inspected security measures along the border with Gaza, without providing any further details. "The armed forces are capable of defending the homeland's borders, a generation after another," Khalifa said during the visit. The visit came one day after a high-level Egyptian source accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of hindering the Gaza cease-fire and prisoner swap negotiations by making claims about weapons smuggling through the Egypt-Gaza border. The Philadelphi Corridor, a demilitarized area along Egypt's border with Gaza, has been a sticking point in Gaza cease-fire and prisoner swap negotiations between Israel and Hamas. Netanyahu insists on maintaining a military presence along the axis, claiming that the corridor is a "lifeline" for Hamas to rearm. Egypt rejects any Israeli military presence on the corridor and has denounced Netanyahu's claims about weapons smuggling into Gaza through its territory. Last week, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that Israeli military withdrawal from the Philadelphi Corridor poses no security problem for Israel. For months, the US, Qatar, and Egypt have been trying to reach an agreement between Israel and Hamas to ensure a prisoner exchange and a cease-fire and allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. But mediation efforts have been stalled due to Netanyahu's refusal to meet Hamas' demands to stop the war. Israel has continued its brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip since an Oct. 7 Hamas attack despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire. —APP

Floods kill more than 270 in Niger

BAMAKO: The continuous torrential rains in Niger have left some 273 people dead, either by drowning or by the collapse of their houses, according to an official statement on Thursday. The General Directorate of Civil Protection of the West African nation said the floods affected 710,767 people across 94,783 households and damaged 73,582 houses. It also highlighted other material damage, including the loss of large and small ruminants, and the collapse of schools, health huts, and shops. The southwestern regions of Tahoua and Maradi are the most affected with 87 and 86 deaths recorded respectively, while floods hit 201 of the country's 266 communes. —APP

Israel shouldn't doubt Iran's resolve to retaliate

Abdollahi cited several instances of the country's successful retaliation against aggressors such as its steadfast defense of its soil during the 1980s in the face of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's invading army, which was being heavily armed by the West

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: A ranking Iranian military official says the Israeli regime should not doubt the Islamic Republic's resolve to retaliate over the regime's assassination of senior Palestinian resistance leader, Ismail Haniyeh, which took place in Tehran in late July. The Iranian Armed Forces' Deputy Chief of Staff for Coordination, Brigadier General Ali Abdollahi made the remarks during a ceremony in the northwestern Iranian city of Koumeh on Wednesday. "The Zionist regime should not dream that Iran would not respond to this atrocity...because the Islamic Republic has [already] proven its will to deploy all its capacities towards responding to enemies' violation of its soil and waters," he said. The official quoted remarks made by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei following the assassination, in which the Leader pledged that the Islamic Republic would deliver a "harsh response" to the atrocity.

EU must pressure, sanction Israel to halt genocide

BRUSSELS: Palestine's envoy to the European Union has urged the bloc to put pressure and impose sanctions on Israel to stop its genocidal war in the besieged Gaza Strip. The Palestinian ambassador to the EU, Adel Atieh, made the call on Wednesday, in an interview with Turkey's official Anadolu news agency. "Until today, the EU and its member states failed to adopt any complete measures, and this contributes to the situation where we can see that the two-state solution is increasingly problematic, and there is no serious prospect to ... to stop the war, genocide, in Gaza," Atieh said. He stressed that certain countries within the EU are openly and strongly backing the occupying regime and preventing the European bloc from reaching a unified stance on recognizing Palestine as a state. Atieh added that these countries within the EU also prevent imposition of sanctions on Israel for its genocidal war in Gaza and its expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. "Too many member states are opposing the work of the International Criminal Court to release arrest warrant against [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and those responsible for the work of genocide in Palestine. Some of the countries are opposing the mandate of the International Court of Justice, which also released an advisory opinion regarding the illegality of the occupation," the Palestinian envoy said. Atieh also stressed that the current situation benefits Israel and enables it to persist with its "colonial policy", which diminishes the chances of achieving a so-called two-state solution. Since October 7, Israeli forces have killed more than 40,820 Palestinians, most of them women and children in the Gaza Strip, according to Gaza health officials. —Agencies

"The time of the response, however, will be determined by the Leader and the country's senior commanders," Abdollahi noted. Haniyeh, the late head of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas' Political Bureau, was assassinated alongside one of his bodyguards in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31, a day after he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's Presi-

dent Masoud Pezeshkian. Abdollahi cited several instances of the country's successful retaliation against aggressors such as its steadfast defense of its soil during the 1980s in the face of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's invading army, which was being heavily armed by the West. "The country's security, power, and advancement are the results of the sacrifices that

were made by its martyrs and fighters [during the war]," he said. Abdollahi also enumerated Iran's firing of volleys of ballistic missiles against United States-occupied bases in Iraq in January 2020 in response to Washington's earlier assassination of the Islamic Republic's senior anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

Iran's response to the assassination came "while there had been no direct attack [like it] on the US's interests throughout the previous 70 years," the official stated. He also pointed to the country's retaliation of April 13 against a deadly attack by the Israeli regime that had targeted the consular section of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in the Syrian capital Damascus earlier that month. The reprisal saw Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) targeting the occupied Palestinian territories with a barrage of drones and missiles, inflicting damage on Israeli military bases there. "There are many countries that have [various type of] equipment and weapons, but having the will to deploy these is a different matter, and the enemy knows that Iran possesses the will to do so," Abdollahi said. "Our enemies have been humiliated and do not dare to violate the Islamic Republic's territory..." he added, asserting, "Therefore, we say this to the global arrogance that it should not test the Iranian nation's steadfastness once again."

Turkish FM accuses Netanyahu of genocide

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan sharply criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, calling him the primary "culprit of genocide in Gaza." Fidan accused Netanyahu of perpetuating violence in Gaza to maintain political power. "Netanyahu continues to spread death and terror to stay in power," Fidan told a news conference in Skopje following a meeting with North Macedonian Foreign Minister Timco Mucunski. Fidan condemned Israel's ongoing military actions and highlighted the increasing attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, as well as provocations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which he claimed are exacerbating the crisis. The Turkish foreign minister also claimed that Netanyahu is undermining cease-fire efforts by imposing new conditions and obstructing negotiations. He called on the international community to act against Netanyahu, asserting, "Remaining silent on the massacre is equivalent to being complicit in the crime." —APP

Belarus claims to have downed multiple drones

MINSK: Belarus claimed on Thursday that its forces shot down several drones that had violated the country's airspace overnight. "On Sept. 5, a violation of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus in the airspace was recorded, presumably by unmanned aerial vehicles," Sergey Frolov, the first deputy commander of the Belarusian Air Force, said in a statement issued by the Defense Ministry. All of the drones were shot down by Belarusian air defenses, Frolov said, adding that an investigation into the incident is currently underway. —APP

Rangers arrest 4 suspects

KARACHI: The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and District East Police in a joint operation based on intelligence information in Sohrab Goth and Gulshan-e-Maymar, arrested four suspects involved in injuring 12 to 15 citizens during robberies and street crimes. According to a Rangers spokesperson on Thursday, the arrested individuals have been identified as Jawad Ali alias Javed alias Farhan, Sajjad alias Jani, Rab Nawaz alias Rabu, and Abid Ali alias Fahad Bengali. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from their possession. During interrogation, the suspects revealed that four different gangs are actively involved in robberies, motorcycle snatching, and thefts, and the arrested individuals are operating their own gangs. They admitted to committing over 400 armed robberies in Gadap Town, Gulshan-e-Maymar, and other areas of Karachi. —APP

Michel Barnier named by Macron as new French PM

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has named Michel Barnier as prime minister almost two months after France's snap elections ended in political deadlock. Mr Barnier, 73, is the EU's former chief Brexit negotiator and led talks with the UK government between 2016 and 2019. A veteran of the right-wing Republicans (LR) party, he has had a long political career and filled various senior posts, both in France and within the EU. He will now have to form a government that can survive a National Assembly divided into three big political blocs, with none able to form a clear majority. Known in France as Monsieur Brexit, Mr Barnier

will be France's oldest prime minister since the Fifth Republic came into being in 1958. Three years ago, he tried and failed to become his party's candidate to take on President Macron for the French presidency. He said he wanted to limit and take control of immigration. He is set to succeed Gabriel Attal, France's youngest ever prime minister, who President Macron first appointed prime minister in early 2024 and who has stayed in post as caretaker since July. It has taken President Macron 60 days to make up his mind on choosing a prime minister, having called a "political truce" during the Paris Olympics. But Mr Barnier will need all his political skills to navigate the coming weeks, with the centre-left

Socialists already planning to challenge his appointment with a vote of confidence. President Macron decided to wait until after the Paris Olympics before he spoke to the political parties about potential candidates Mr Macron's presidency lasts until 2027. Normally the government comes from the president's party, as they are elected weeks apart. But the man who has called himself "the master of the clocks" changed that when he called snap elections in June and his centrists came second to the left-wing New Popular Front. President Macron has interviewed several potential candidates for the role of prime minister, but his task was complicated by the need to come up with a name who could survive

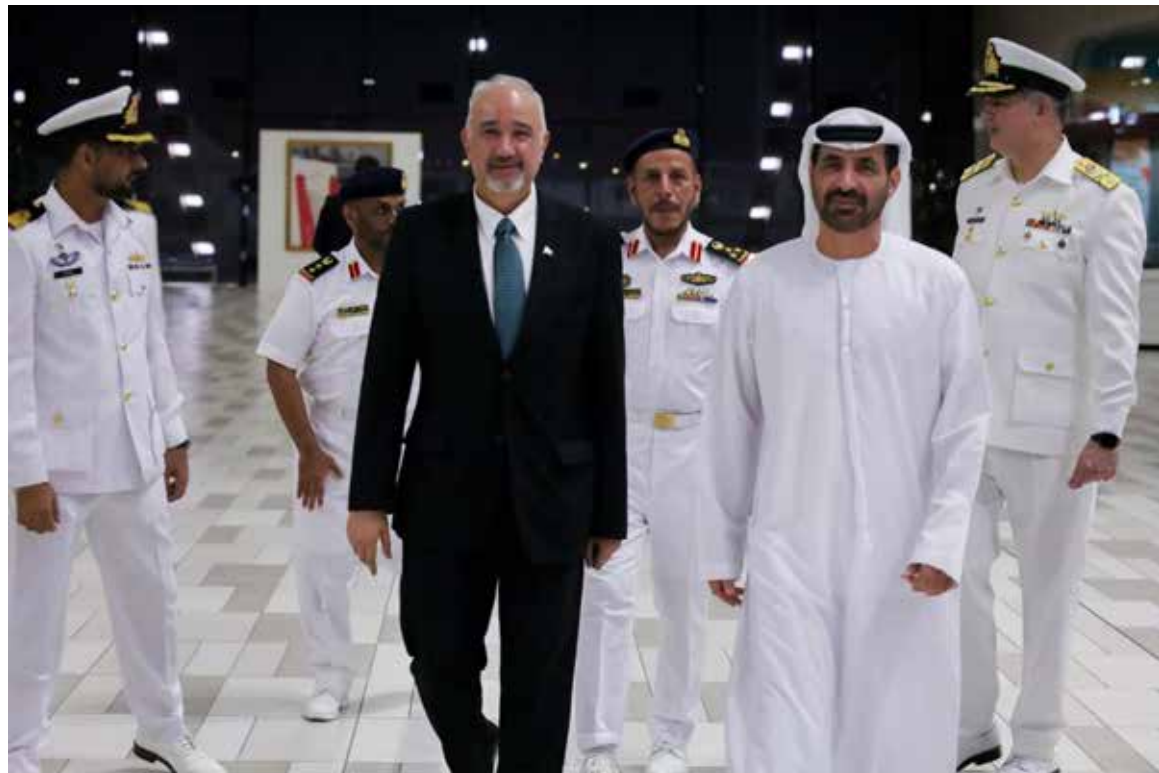
a so-called censure vote on their first appearance in the National Assembly. The Elysée Palace said that by appointing Mr Barnier, the president had ensured that the prime minister and future government would offer the greatest possible stability and the broadest possible unity. Mr Barnier had been given the task of forming a unifying government "in the service of the country and the French people", the presidency stressed. Mr Barnier's immediate challenge will be to steer through France's 2025 budget and he has until 1 October to submit a draft plan to the National Assembly. Gabriel Attal has already been working on a provisional budget over the summer.

China's Xi promises \$50 bln for Africa over next three years

BEIJING: Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday pledged over \$50 billion in financing for Africa over the next three years, promising to deepen cooperation in infrastructure and trade with the continent as he addressed Beijing's biggest summit since the pandemic. More than 50 African leaders and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres are attending this week's China-Africa forum, according to state media. African leaders already secured a plethora of deals this week for greater cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, mining, trade and energy. Addressing the leaders at the forum's opening ceremony in Beijing's ornate Great Hall of the People on Thursday, Xi hailed ties with the continent as in their "best period in history". "China is ready to deepen cooperation with African countries in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, trade and investment," he said. "Over the next three years, the Chinese government is willing to provide financial support amounting to 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion)," Xi said. Over half of that will be in credit, he said, with \$11 billion "in various types of assistance" as well as \$10 billion through encouraging Chinese firms to invest. He also promised to help "create at least one million jobs for Africa". The Chinese leader pledged \$141 million in grants for military assistance to the continent as well. Beijing would "provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa", Xi said. Also addressing the meeting, UN chief Guterres told African leaders that growing ties between China and the continent could "drive the renewable energy revolution".

Zindigi US Dollar-Based Freelancer account sets new standard

ISLAMABAD: Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, has contributed majorly towards the ecosystem of freelancers in Pakistan by introducing the launch of its US Dollar-Based Freelancer Account, designed to empower Pakistan's burgeoning freelancer community. With an estimated 4 million freelancers in the country, this initiative addresses the significant financial management challenges faced by freelancers and those aspiring to join this dynamic workforce said a news release. Zindigi remains committed to prioritizing customer feedback and addressing the concerns they raise to enhance their experience. Despite their large numbers, freelancers often encounter obstacles in managing and receiving payments from clients worldwide. Instant conversion to local currency has also been a pressing issue. The Zindigi US Dollar-Based Freelancer Account aims to bridge this gap by providing seamless global transactions. It allows payments in US Dollars to be deposited directly into the account, with conversion to PKR available as needed. This account is designed to be a gateway to global earnings. It offers the ability to instantly open and maintain a USD account, enjoy the most competitive conversion and international transaction fees with the Zindigi debit card, obtain in-app account certificates, and easily receive payments from freelance platforms via an IBAN account number. Additionally, users can schedule and initiate recurring payment requests from clients, further simplifying their financial management. Noman Azhar, Zindigi's Chief Officer, stated, "Our US Dollar-Based Freelancer Account exemplifies Zindigi's commitment to empowering the Pakistani freelancer community." —APP



ABU DHABI: Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan Ambassador in UAE welcomes the chief guest General Salem Saeed Al Jabri, UAE's Assistant Foreign Minister for Military at the Pakistan Defense Day's reception. — DNA

Pakistan Air Force – A bastion of professionalism and integrity

IZMI HERLANI



SINCE its inception, Pakistan Air Force has been guided by a steadfast commitment to the ethos of professionalism, unwavering devotion to duty and the cultivation of integrity, dedication and sacrifice. As the guardian of the nation's aerial sovereignty, PAF stands as the sole obstacle in the eyes of Pakistan's adversaries, deterring any aggression through the expertise of its air and ground crews, led by the charismatic leadership

of true heroes. The celebration of 06 September as Pakistan's Defence Day, serves as a significant testament to the Men in Blues' resolute dedication to safeguarding the nation's aerial integrity at all costs. PAF's adherence to the highest standards of character, courage and competence has earned it the trust and respect of the nation and the international community alike. The 1965 Indo-Pakistan War stands as a defining moment in the history of the Pakistan Air Force, showcasing its unwavering commitment to national defence. On that fateful day, our brave pilots soared into the skies, confronting overwhelming odds with unparalleled bravery and executing daring missions that disrupted enemy operations while providing vital support to ground forces. The legendary dogfights of the PAF's F-86 Sabres and F-104 Starfighters with the IAF's MiG-21s, Gnats, Mystres, Hunters and Vampires became emblematic of the PAF's credo, reflecting not only tactical brilliance but also an indomitable will to

protect the homeland. Heroes like Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Ahmed Rafiqui Shaheed, who continued to assist his comrades despite his guns being jammed and Air Commodore Muhammad Mahmood Alam, who achieved an astonishing five kills in just under a minute, have become legends, inspiring generations of pilots to uphold PAF's proud tradition of excellence. The war was a testament to the PAF's dedication, with Pakistan Air Force aces dominating the skies. Their bravery, skill and sacrifices continue to resonate in the collective memory of the nation, serving as a source of immense pride and inspiration for the people of Pakistan. As the nation commemorates Defence Day, Pakistan Air Force reflects on its impressive journey of modernisation and excellence under the astute leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Under his guidance, PAF has made notable advancements in self-reliance, developing indigenous capabilities and enhancing its arsenal by embracing disruptive and niche

technologies alongside cutting-edge aircraft. Moreover, PAF has significantly progressed in the realms of space and cyber warfare, demonstrating its adaptability and forward-thinking approach to contemporary military operations. Pakistan Air Force's Integrated Air Defence System stands as a formidable fortress in the skies, an intricate web of advanced technologies that orchestrates a symphony of aerial dominance. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles navigate the heavens, wielding cutting-edge precision and stealth, redefining the very nature of modern warfare. This seamless fusion of man and machine captivates the imagination, heralding a new era of strategic prowess that not only fortifies national integrity but also delivers a resounding message to any adversary bold enough to challenge the skies. Training and development are at the core of PAF's spirit. The investment in human capital has ensured that PAF personnel are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in an ever-evolving environ-

ment. Rigorous training programmes have instilled a sense of duty and honour, fostering a culture where courage and sacrifice are deeply respected. Similarly, PAF's participation in international exercises and the performance of its air and ground crews on the international arena has further exemplified its dedication to collaboration and peacekeeping, showcasing its capabilities on the global stage. In addition to its military responsibilities, Pakistan Air Force has played a vital role in nation-building efforts, providing disaster relief during floods and earthquakes, extinguishing wildfires and conducting emergency medical evacuations. The establishment of the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park has further underscored PAF's commitment to fostering industry-academia linkages, driving innovation and contributing to the nation's development. National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASTP) is being spearheaded by PAF as the project of strategic national importance that is bringing in highly qualified PAF HR as well as talented youth from across the country in design, research,

innovation and development centers being established at the national level in Kamra, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore as well as top ranked universities & institutions across the country. The project has led to the development of an ecosystem for aerospace and niche technology domains thus ensuring an enabling environment for home grown technology and tech enterprises. Under the visionary guidance of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who envisioned the PAF as "an efficient Air Force, Second to None," the service has consistently upheld its founder's ideals. Through its commitment to excellence, PAF has proven itself a force to be reckoned with, maintaining a moral and psychological ascendancy over its adversaries in the face of numerical superiority. As Pakistan continues to face external and internal challenges, PAF remains steadfast in its role as a pillar of deterrence and stability, ready to defend the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity with unwavering dedication and professionalism.

Briefs

UNSC urges immediate ceasefire in Gaza

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council has expressed outrage over the lack of progress in a ceasefire aimed at terminating Israel's months-long genocide against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. The 15-member body held its second emergency meeting on Wednesday, hearing a growing call for an immediate ceasefire in the besieged Palestinian territory as members discussed the humanitarian situation there as well as the escalating tensions in the occupied West Bank. Council members voiced their frustration over Israel's refusal to accept the ceasefire outlined in Resolution 2735, which called for the release of captives and Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. "There is a sense of outrage felt around the globe," said Slovenia's Ambassador Samuel Zbogor, whose delegation holds the council's rotating presidency this month. "Outrage in Palestine that the international community is failing them; outrage on Israeli streets that the hostages continue being held in Gaza; outrage of the global public that this war does not stop." Zbogor reminded the 15-nation council that it is their job to push for peace. Rosemary Anne DiCarlo, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peace-building Affairs, emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and to speed up humanitarian aid deliveries to the besieged Palestinian territory. DiCarlo hailed the continued efforts of Egypt, Qatar and the United States to establish a ceasefire in Gaza, saying recent meetings in Doha and Cairo have attempted to bridge the gaps but major differences remain. - Agencies

PIA's Iqbal Javed Bajwa steps down

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) Deputy Station Manager in Birmingham Iqbal Javed Bajwa has reportedly stepped down after his educational certificate was found fake. A spokesperson of the national flag carrier told Geo News that the higher-ups had sought resignation from Iqbal, who is reportedly a brother of former army chief General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa, for submitting "fake" educational certificates. He said that the official had been served a show cause notice on July 13, 2024, through the PIA's finance manager in Birmingham on allegations of possessing a fake degree. Iqbal had reportedly been asked to prove the authenticity of his Intermediate degree within seven days or face termination, for breaching relevant clauses of PIA's Employees Disciplinary Policy 2019.

SHC suspends KU syndicate decision on J. Jahangiri's degree

Court stops authorities concerned from proceeding against the judge

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday suspended Karachi University's (KU) decision to revoke the law degree of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, ruling in his favour as the court found that the university's syndicate had taken the action in his absence depriving him of the opportunity to defend himself. In its written order, the court ruled that the degree of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge was cancelled by KU's Syndicate and Unfair Means Committee during a meeting where the judge was not present, stating that it was a "violation of Article 10-A of the Constitution" (the right to a fair trial). "Unfortunately, no opportunity of hearing was extended to Mr Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and the manner so adopted appears to be highly objectionable, illegal ... and without lawful authority," the court ruled. The controversy erupted in July when a letter began circulating on social media purportedly from the KU controller of examinations regarding Justice Jahangiri's law degree. Last week, the issue resurfaced when the KU syndicate cancelled the degree and enrolment of Jahangiri, who obtained his LLB degree in 1991 under enrolment number 5968. The decision came a few hours after the detention of academic and syndicate member Dr Riaz Ahmed, who was picked up by police in what appeared to be an attempt to stop him from attending the key meeting. He was released in the evening only after the syndicate decided to cancel the degree. The petition filed with the SHC, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, argued that Justice Jahangiri was "singularly targeted, with extreme mala fide intention, according to a premeditated and conceived plan to tarnish the reputation and destroy the reputation of the



honourable judge of the Islamabad High Court". It added that Jahangiri "was one out of the six honourable judges of the IHC who in their letter dated 25.03.2024 informed the honourable chief justice of Pakistan about the alleged interference by intelligence operatives in judicial matters". The petition also argued that Jahangiri was absent at the syndicate meeting and not called in person nor provided representation, thus making the decision to cancel the degree illegal. Jahangiri's counsel argued that KU's Unfair Means Committee was "formed illegally and not in accordance with the Rules of Respondent No.4, therefore at the very inception the formation was void, illegal and

illicit", rendering any of its recommendations void and illegal. The court ruled that the degree was cancelled "without hearing and by violating the basic settled principle of law", adding that the petitioners' claims "carry substantial weight". As Justice Jahangiri was not present at the syndicate's meeting, he was "condemned unheard" and the decision was "null and void." The court added that under Article 199 (the jurisdiction of the High Court), it has the power to order any institution to "refrain from doing anything that is not permitted by law to do". It ordered KU against taking "any coercive measures based on these decisions" until the date of the next hearing. The SHC ordered that notices be dispatched to all respondents, including the Sindh attorney general, requesting responses within three weeks. The hearing A two-member bench, comprising SHC Justices Salahuddin Panhwar and Justice Amjad Ali Sahito, heard the case today. "Whose degree is it?" Justice Panhwar asked. "How many decisions of this nature has the university made?" The advocate responded by stating that KU had acted in a "non-transparent manner". When asked by the judge about when the degree was awarded, he replied that it was conferred 30 years ago. Justice Panhwar asked, "On whose request has all this happened? On whose complaint has action been taken? The letter was sent by the Islamiya Law College," he added. Asked by Justice Sahito about the relation of the petitioners to the case, the advocates responded that it had been filed by lawyers and added that KU does not have the authority to make such decisions. "Only the Judicial Commission can make such decisions," the advocate stated. One of the advocates spoke about the detention of Dr Riaz Ahmed, upon which Justice Sahito told them, "Do not talk about politics here." He added that if someone's degree was being cancelled, then "he should be called and given notice".

IHC warns Adiala Jail admin for blocking lawyer

Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan warned Adiala Jail after Imran's legal team was blocked from attending two hearings in August

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday warned Adiala Jail authorities that it would move the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) trial of Imran Khan to another location if his lawyers continued to be denied access. Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan issued the warning after Imran's legal team, led by Chaudhry Faisal Hussain, reported they had been blocked from attending two hearings on August 29 and September 2. "If Adiala Jail authorities do not allow lawyers to represent their client... this Court will move the court from the jail to another premises under the direct sight of this court," the judge warned. The IHC also issued notices to the superintendent and deputy superintendent of Adiala Jail, instructing them to be present at the next hearing to explain their actions. The court stated, "In case they are not present... this Court will proceed on the basis that the allegations in the petition are correct."

£190m case: Bushra Bibi's acquittal hangs in balance

Accountability court decides to announce reserved verdict on Bushra's acquittal along with final judgment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court seized with £190 million settlement case has decided to announce verdict on PTI founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi acquittal plea along with a final judgment on the matter. A day earlier, accountability court Judge Nasir Javed Rana reserved the verdict on the former first lady acquittal's petition and the court was expected to announce the judgment today. The duo are accused of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer in a case also involving a property tycoon. However, after the court resumed the hearing in the reference - also known as £190 National Crime Agency (NCA) scandal - against the former prime minister and ex-first lady at a makeshift court in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, the judge decided to defer the decision till the final verdict on the matter. The hearing was also attended by the couple who were produced in the courtroom and were represented by

their lawyers Zaheer Abbas Chaudhry and Usman Riaz Gul. National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Prosecutor General Sardar Mazhar Abbasi and Amjad Parvez along with their team were also present. The defence lawyers cross-examined the NAB Investigation Officer Mian Umar Nadeem and the cross-examination of the anti-corruption watchdog official will be resumed at the next hearing. The hearing of the case has been adjourned till September 7 (Saturday). In the previous hearing, the cross-examination of the NAB IO could not be held due to the absence of the PTI founder's lawyer. However, Bushra's lawyer Gul continued arguments on her acquittal yesterday. Subsequently, the court had also declared the contempt petition against the NAB chairman ineffective, stating that arguments on the plea for acquittal rendered the contempt petition irrelevant. The couple had secured post-arrest bail from the accountability court in the same case in early July, however, they remained imprisoned due to the iddat case - also known as the un-Islamic nikah case - at that time.

Senate passes 'peaceful assembly' bill ahead of PTI's rally

District administration grants NOC to Imran Khan-founded party to hold public gathering in federal capital

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Two days before the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) September 8 much-hyped public gathering in the federal capital, the Senate on Thursday passed "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024" with a majority vote amid protest from opposition benches. The top leadership of the opposition party has been facing criticism from party leaders and workers for not being able to hold the public gathering in Islamabad. The former ruling party abruptly cancelled its Aug 22 "Islamabad Jalsa" and rescheduled it for September 8 as the local administration revoked the no-objection certificate (NOC) and sealed roads leading to the federal capital, citing security concerns. PTI leaders Gohar Ali Khan and Azam Swati claimed that the gathering was postponed on instructions of party founder Imran Khan after they met the incarcerated politician at 07:00am in Adiala Jail. However, cracks appeared within PTI after several party leaders - including Imran's sister Aleema Khan - contradicted the top leaders' statements. Expressing a lack of confidence in the current PTI leadership, Aleema claimed that the PTI leaders have no "real intention" of freeing the former prime minister from jail. In a short audio clip, she also questioned why Swati paid a visit to Imran early in the morning and who instructed him to do so. The government also lambasted "coward" PTI for postponing the political gathering with Defence Minister Khawaja Asif saying that they would never reschedule their power show if there was any chance of its success. The bill was tabled by ruling PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui and the Senate Committee on Interior passed it with a majority vote of 6-1.

Ukraine names new foreign minister

KYIV: Ukrainian lawmakers voted on Thursday to appoint a new foreign minister and two new deputy prime ministers, as President Volodymyr Zelensky carries out his biggest government shakeup since Russia's Feb. 2022 invasion. AndriiSybiha, 49, an experienced diplomat who does not have a prominent public profile, takes the reins of the foreign ministry, replacing Dmytro Kuleba, who has been one of the best known public faces of Ukraine in the West in recent years. The new foreign ministry leadership is not expected to affect policy significantly; Zelensky and his office have taken the leading role in foreign affairs during the war with Russia. The Ukrainian leader, who travels to the United States this month and hopes to present a "victory plan" to President Joe Biden, has said that Ukraine needs "new energy" and that this autumn will be important for Ukraine in war. - Agencies

Dar appreciates UK's duty-free access for Pakistani exports

Deputy Prime Minister meets the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK

FOREIGN DESK



LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of the United Kingdom Ms. Angela Rayner. Deputy Prime Minister Dar congratulated Ms. Rayner on her appointment as the British Deputy Prime Minister. He underscored the importance of a strong Pakistan-UK partnership for furthering the two countries' shared interests in the bilateral and regional domains. The Deputy Prime Minister lauded the contributions of British-Pakistani diaspora towards further enriching the longstanding ties between the two countries. Recalling Deputy Prime Minister Rayner's visit to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2022 floods, Deputy Prime Minister Dar expressed Pakistan's desire to work with the UK on climate action and mobilizing international assistance for climate-vulnerable countries. He noted that creating opportunities for young people, and enhancing bilateral trade and investment were other shared priorities of both countries. He also appreciated the UK's continued duty-free access facility for Pakistani exports. Deputy Prime Minister Rayner congratulated Deputy Prime Minister Dar on Pakistan's election to the UN Security Council. She also noted the positive role of the British Pakistani community in bringing the two countries closer together.

Hamas: Netanyahu trying to 'thwart' Gaza truce

"We warn against falling into the trap of Netanyahu and his tricks, who uses negotiations to prolong the aggression against our people," Hamas statement added

NEWS DESK

JERUSALEM: Hamas on Thursday accused Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to "thwart" a Gaza truce deal, after the Israeli premier said the Palestinian militant group has "rejected everything" in negotiations. The blame trading comes as Netanyahu faces pressure to seal a deal that would free remaining hostages, after Israeli authorities announced on Sunday the deaths of six whose bodies were recovered from a Gaza tunnel. "We're trying to find some area to begin the negotiations," Netanyahu said Wednesday. "They (Hamas) refuse to do that... (They said) there's nothing to talk about." Netanyahu maintains that Israel must retain control over the Philadelphi Corridor along the Egypt-Gaza border to prevent weapons smuggling to Hamas, whose October 7 attack on Israel started the war. Hamas is demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal from the area and on Thursday said Netanyahu's insistence on the border zone "aims to thwart reaching an agreement." The Palestinian militant group says a new deal is unnecessary because they agreed months ago to a truce outlined by US President Joe Biden. "We do not need new proposals," the group said on Telegram. "We warn against falling into the trap of Netanyahu and his tricks, who uses negotiations to prolong the aggression against our people," the Hamas statement added.

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters that Washington thinks "there are ways to address" the impasse. At Israeli protests in several cities this week, Netanyahu's critics have blamed him for hostages' deaths, saying he has refused to make necessary concessions for striking a ceasefire deal. "We are just waiting for them to come back to us, to come back alive and not in coffins," said Anet Kidron, whose community of Kibbutz Beerli was attacked on October 7. Netanyahu said questions remain in truce talks over the Palestinian prisoners who Israel would exchange for hostages. Key mediator Qatar said on Tuesday that Israel's approach was "based on an attempt to falsify facts and mislead world public opinion by repeating lies." Such moves "will ultimately lead to the demise of peace efforts," Qatar's foreign ministry said. The October 7 attack by Hamas resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians including some hostages killed in captivity, according to official Israeli figures. Of 251 hostages seized by Palestinian militants during the attack, 97 remain in Gaza including 33 the Israeli military says are dead. Scores were released during a one-week truce in November. Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has so far killed at least 40,861 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. Most of the dead are women and children, according to the UN rights office. While Israel

presses on with its Gaza offensive, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said the military should use its "full strength" against Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank. "These terrorist organizations that have various names, whether in Nur Al-Shams, Tulkarem, Faraa or Jenin, must be wiped out," he said, referring to cities and refugee camps where an Israeli military operation is currently underway. The Israeli military said Thursday its aircraft "conducted three targeted strikes on armed terrorists" in the Tubas area, which includes Faraa refugee camp. A strike on a car left "five killed and (one) seriously wounded" in Tubas, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said. Eyewitnesses told AFP they saw a large number of Israeli troops storming Faraa camp, where explosions were heard. Israel has killed more than 30 Palestinians across the northern West Bank since its assault started there on August 28, the territory's health ministry says, including children and militants. One Israeli soldier was killed in Jenin, where the majority of the Palestinian fatalities have been. "Panic spread as the army was blowing up everything around without taking into consideration that there were children," Hanan Natour, a resident of Jenin refugee camp, told AFP on Wednesday. Israeli troops have destroyed infrastructure in Jenin and elsewhere in the West Bank, with the United Nations reporting the military restricting hospital access and using "war-like tactics."

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