



Islamabad POST

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

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Detailed News On Page-07

El-Sisi calls for EU pressure on Israel

Detailed News On Page-08



Colombia beat Messi-less Argentina

Detailed News On Page-06



'Charter of Parliament' NA adopts resolution to form body for resolving house issues

“Not issuing production orders was not right thing to do then [and] it is not right thing to do now,” says Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

DNA / STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In the aftermath of the alleged arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers from within the Parliament House premises, the government and the opposition on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution agreeing to constitute a 16-member committee for resolving issues related to the house. The resolution, tabled by Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, called for the constitution of a parliamentary committee comprising members of the National Assembly (MNAs) from both treasury and opposition benches to discuss, analyse and propose recommendations regarding issues related to parliament and its smooth functioning. The development came as Speaker Ayaz Sadiq presided over the lower house's session against the backdrop of heightened political tensions following the arrest of several PTI lawmakers for allegedly violating the newly enacted Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024 about the party's public rally held in Islamabad on Sunday. Earlier in the day, the speaker had also suspended the House's Sergeant at Arms and four other security officials for the security lapse which saw lawmakers

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Speaker suspends NA security personnel

Lower house's custodian takes action against Sergeant at Arms along with four other security officials

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq suspended the lower house of parliament's Sergeant at Arms Muhammad Ishfaq Ashraf for four months on Wednesday for showcasing irresponsibility regarding NA's security. Furthermore, the speaker also suspended four other security personnel for the said term over failure to ensure the house's security which include Security Assistant Waqas Ahmed along with three junior security officers namely Obaidullah, Waheed Safdar and Muhammad Haroon. The

development comes as part of the aftermath of the political turmoil triggered after the Islamabad police arrested several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers allegedly from within the Parliament House's premises. The arrests drew ire not only from the former ruling party but from the speaker as well who reprimanded Islamabad Inspector General (IG) of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, demanding the PTI leaders' immediate release. “What way was it to arrest a parliamentarian?” the speaker questioned the police chief. “Whatever happened in the Parliament will have to be protested. I have ordered all the videos [to be collected],” Sadiq remarked, adding that he would file a case against those involved in the incident. The crackdown against the Imran Khan-founded party, which saw Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan, Sher Afzal Marwat, Zain Qureshi, Sheikh Waqas

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ISLAMABAD: Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, calls on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. - DNA

Baloch assumes charge as 33rd Foreign Secretary

She served as Pakistan's Consul General to Chengdu, China, Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Amna Baloch on Wednesday assumed the charge as the 33rd Foreign Secretary of Pakistan after her predecessor Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi relinquished the office on attaining superannuation. A veteran diplomat, Ambassador Baloch has held several important assignments both in Islamabad and Pakistan's diplomatic missions abroad.

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IMO SG to make historic first visit to Pakistan

Visit of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to Pakistan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco, will visit Pakistan today from 12-14 September 2024. This will be the first ever visit to Pakistan by a Secretary General of the IMO. Secretary General Velasco will participate in the “International Maritime

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Calls for eliminating animosity

Bilawal warns govt of consequences for 'victimising opponents'

He said that despite being an ally of the coalition government, his party has a difference of opinion with the ruling PML-N

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Criticising the arrests of PTI lawmakers on Sunday's crackdown, PPP Chairman Bilawal-Bhutto Zardari has warned the coalition government led by the PML-N of repercussions of victimising political opponents following in the footsteps of the previous Imran Khan-led regime. “If the government's only job is to decide, who should we put behind bars today [because] Khan did this to use and spoiled the [political] climate. If we repay in the same coin then you may be happy for one day but tomorrow you and I will be in the same jail,” the PPP chief said on the floor of the National Assembly on Wednesday. The PPP chief also slammed the former ruling party's lawmakers for not respecting the parliamentary affairs and using the same confrontational tone in the house as they used in public rallies. “We decide whatever politics we want to do outside the house,” said the Bhutto scion, adding: “[...] However, we have [to play] a responsible role here.” Stressing on respecting the parliament's dignity, Bilawal went on to say that if someone is a lawmaker then the individual will have to maintain a working relationship regardless of whatever they are saying in a public rally. The politico said that the PML-N is the ruling party in the Centre and Punjab, whereas, the PPP is governing the Sindh and Balochistan. He said that despite being an ally of the coalition government, his party has a difference of opinion with the ruling PML-N. “I have been criticising the government's economic policies but I sit with them in different meetings,” he added. However, no institution could function without the supremacy of the Constitution, he stressed. Taking a jibe at PTI founder Imran Khan, Bilawal said that the former premier, who ruled the country from 2018 to 2022, had ruined the political environment. He clarified that he has no personal grudges against the PTI founder, adding that he also does not care about who jailed his father or his mother. Pointing towards the aggressive actions of the PTI lawmakers, Bilawal suggested: “If your leader [Imran Khan] is in jail for a time being then it does not make any difference. You should fight his legal battle on merit.”

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PTI demands 'do more' from speaker

It was unprecedented that MNAs were arrested inside the Parliament House, says Asad Qaiser

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday demanded ‘do more’ from the National Assembly speaker to uphold the sanctity of the parliament. Talking to media outside the Parliament House, former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser said that there is no constitutional government in the country these days. “It was unprecedented that MNAs were arrested from inside the Parliament House,” said Asad Qaiser. On Wednesday, National Assembly speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq suspended the sergeant-at-arms and four other security personnel over the arrest of PTI leaders inside the Parliament House. The NA speaker suspended sergeant-at-arms Ashfaq Ashraf and four security personnel for a four-month period citing dereliction of duty. Sadiq also constituted a fact-finding committee headed by additional secretary. The Islamabad police had conducted an operation against the PTI leaders, taking into custody all PTI members who had sought refuge in the Parliament House. Police arrested PTI chief Barrister Gohar, Sher Afzal Marwat and Shoaib Shaheen on Sept 9 whereas it transgressed the parliament building and arrested PTI MNAs Sheikh Waqas Akram, Zain Qureshi, Naseemur Rehman and Shahid Ahmad Khattak on the night between Sept 9 and 10. “The parliament was attacked on Sept 9 and constitution was also violated,” said the opposition leader Omar Ayub.

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Briefs

Fazl rejects govt's claim of support

Says JUI-F will remain part of opposition and won't support any legislation that undermines Constitution or democracy

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has rejected government claims that his party supports proposed constitutional amendments, stressing that no opposition party, including JUI-F, will back any legislation that contradicts the Constitution or democracy. Fazlur Rehman met with senior politician Muhammad Ali Durrani at his residence in Islamabad late on Wednesday night. Fazlur Rehman, reaffirming his party's opposition stance, stated, “JUI-F will remain part of the opposition, and no opposition party will support any legislation that undermines the Constitution or democracy.”

Abbasi slams govt

Abbasi also expressed disappointment on KP Chief Minister's language in rally

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Awam Pakistan Party (APP) Chairman Shahid Khaqan Abbasi criticised the current government, calling it unfortunate that oppressive laws are being enacted under the guise of democracy. In a press conference on Wednesday, Abbasi accused the government of crafting tough laws to stifle opposition rallies, asserting that true democracy is lacking in Pakistan's capital. He remarked that members of the National Assembly and Senate are now answerable only to a local SHO and that political parties are subordinating themselves to police officers and deputy commissioners.

Afghanistan announces kicking off work on TAPI pipeline

“From today the operations will start on Afghanistan's soil,” says Taliban spokesperson

FOREIGN DESK

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan said Wednesday work would begin on a \$10 billion gas pipeline traversing South Asia as officials joined dignitaries in neighbouring Turkmenistan to celebrate its completion on that side of the border. Progress on the TAPI pipeline – running through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India – has been repeatedly delayed because of security issues in conflict-ravaged Afghanistan. “From today the operations will start on Afghanistan's soil,” Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said in comments broadcast by Afghan state television. At the border ceremony in Islim Cheshma in Turkmenistan, officials on both sides, including Afghan Prime Minister Hassan Akhund, hailed the project. “This project will benefit not only the economies of the countries participating but also the countries of the whole region,” the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow said in a video broadcast live at the ceremony. However, experts warned that the project – which is still not fully funded – is unlikely to be operational for another decade. In the Afghan border province of Herat, a public holiday was declared to mark the occasion, with posters celebrating

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SCO trade ministers meeting today

Outcomes of meeting will be reviewed during state heads meeting, scheduled for October 15-16 in Islamabad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is hosting the 23rd Meeting of Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) responsible for Foreign Economic and Trade Activities today (Thursday), according to an official statement. “This important event, where Ministers of SCO countries dealing with External Trade and Commerce would be representing their countries, will be chaired by Pakistan's Commerce Minister, Jam Kamal Khan,” the statement issued on Wednesday said. Trade ministers from all SCO member states, including India, have been invited. However, India's trade minister will attend

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'Charter of Parliament' initiative: will it work?

If the speaker is genuinely appalled by the events of September 10, he should immediately file an FIR, just as he did in 2014 when Imran Khan and Tahir ul Qadri's protestors attempted to storm Parliament. This is precisely what PTI has demanded of him: if he is truly committed to uniting political parties for the betterment of the country, he must demonstrate courage by taking action and holding the real culprits accountable.

Analysis

ANSAR M BHATTI



ISLAMABAD: The Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has proposed a “Charter of Parliament” aimed at fostering political consensus among various stakeholders, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Bilawal Bhutto, in his speech, emphasized that any effort towards political consensus without PTI's participation would be futile. But the question arises: why did the Speaker

suddenly propose this charter, and why did all political parties, except PTI, agree to it? The answer seems obvious. The unprecedented “ransacking” of the Parliament House on September 10, 2024, by masked individuals left everyone shocked. The Speaker, as the custodian of the House, bears responsibility for the safety of its members. The fact that members of Parliament were arrested from within the National Assembly premises was a particularly troubling development. No one expected that those who consider themselves above the law would go so far as to violate the sanctity of the Parliament itself. In an attempt to mitigate the humiliation caused by these events and the arrests of parliamentarians within the House, the Speaker, it appears,

proposed the so-called “Charter of Parliament” as a means of diverting attention. In justifying the proposal, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq suggested that if the leaderships are uninterested in such an arrangement, then members should move forward on their own. However, one must question whether Ayaz Sadiq, a long-time ally of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, could truly act independently of their influence. Is he capable of disregarding their directives? The answer is likely no, which raises the suspicion that this proposal is merely a political maneuver designed for face-saving purposes rather than a genuine effort toward political unity. If the speaker is genuinely appalled by the events of September 10, he should immediately file an FIR, just as he did in

2014 when Imran Khan and Tahir ul Qadri's protestors attempted to storm Parliament. This is precisely what PTI has demanded of him: if he is truly committed to uniting political parties for the betterment of the country, he must demonstrate courage by taking action and holding the real culprits accountable. The prospects for the success of the Charter of Parliament appear quite bleak. Both the PPP and PML-N have a history of signing similar agreements, such as the Charter of Democracy, but failing to honor their commitments. As a result, the Charter of Democracy never truly materialized. One particularly interesting clause in that charter was a pledge by both parties to never form a government with the help of the Establishment!!

Governor, CM visit Mazar-e-Quaid

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with members of the provincial cabinet visited Mausoleum of the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and paid homage to him on his 76th death anniversary. Kamran Khan Tessori and Syed Murad Ali Shah offered Fateha and laid floral wreaths on the shrine and prayed for the prosperity and development of the country and the province. They also penned comments on visitors' book to pay tribute to Quaid on his struggle for creation of separate homeland for the Muslims of the Sub Continent. Speaking to media after paying homage to the father of the nation, Sindh Governor said there was dire need to follow Quaid's principles of unity, firmness and discipline so that country could be taken to the right track. He said Quaid was a brave and principled leader who always remained committed to democratic principles throughout his life. He said as per Quaid's ideology, extremism has no place in the country. Governor Tessori said present government was determined to make the country Quaid's Pakistan.—APP

Physiotherapy part and parcel of modern medical science: Dr. Ilyas

PESHAWAR: In order to mark the World Physiotherapy Day, the College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (CPMR) on Tuesday organized one day seminar at Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP) focusing on the theme of low back pain management. The seminar, held at CPMR Hall, was attended by senior physiotherapists, faculty members, staff and large number of physiotherapy students. Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas Chief Executive PCP, addressed as chief guest wherein he asserted that physiotherapy is essential component of modern medical sciences, enabling millions of physically disabled individuals to recover without the use of medicine. He stressed that many people suffering from spinal cord injuries and various forms of back pain can only find relief through physiotherapy, rather than relying on medicines. Dr. Ilyas also pointed out that without proper treatment, these individuals would otherwise remain a burden on their families and society. Dr. Amir Zeb, Director Rehabilitation, emphasized that 619 million people worldwide suffer from back pain, significantly reducing national productivity.—APP

SUPARCO announces Poster Competition on "Space Travel" theme

ISLAMABAD: Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced the Poster Making Contest 2024 for students across the country under the theme of "Space Travel", to showcase their creativity and skills. Each year SUPARCO arranges Poster Competition as part of its participation in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP). According to an official of SUPARCO, the contest is open to students aged 6 to 12, with eligibility determined based on birth dates between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2018. Students from various schools across the country are encouraged to participate, with each school allowed to submit up to three posters. About the guidelines, the official informed that the participants must adhere to specific guidelines to ensure their entries qualify for consideration. Each poster must be the work of a single student and be submitted through their respective schools. The deadline for submission is set for September 20, 2024, and no late entries will be accepted. It is crucial for participants to follow the instructions carefully, including attaching a fully completed submission form to the back of the poster and ensuring no personal information appears on the front.—APP

Ambassador Dr. Jemal inaugurates Consulate of Ethiopia in Karachi

Karachi is a business hub as well as the cultural center of Pakistan, the Ambassador said, adding the Consulate opening would not only give a major boost to the bilateral trade, but also bolster people-to-people contacts between the two countries

DNA

H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, has inaugurated the Honorary Consulate of Ethiopia in Karachi which will further strengthen the already flourishing bilateral ties between the two countries. Talking to the media, the Ambassador congratulated H. E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of Ethiopia in Karachi, on his appointment and opening of the Consulate.

Karachi is a business hub as well as the cultural center of Pakistan, the Ambassador said, adding the Consulate opening would not only give a major boost to the bilateral trade, but also bolster people-to-people contacts between the two countries. He said the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Pakistan has been playing a pivotal role in Look Africa and Engage Africa Policy, contributing massively to connect Pakistan with Africa. The Government of the FDR Ethiopia first established its Mission in Islamabad in 2022, brought the Ethiopian Airlines in 2023 and this year opened the Honorary



Consulate in Karachi, he added. On the occasion, H.E. Ibrahim Tawab highlighted the extraordinary business, trade and investment opportunities in Ethiopia. He lauded the vision of H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker for promoting trade ties of Pakistan and Africa.

Govt. creating balance between resources, expenditures: Ahsan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the incumbent government was making its best possible efforts to create a balance between available resources and existing expenditures aimed at avoiding the debt quagmire. "Without creating this balance, it will be impossible to come out of it, if stuck," the minister said in a televised address during a meeting he chaired on projects executed under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).

He said if the development

budget relied on borrowed money, it was the responsibility of everyone to ensure its transparent utilization, without allowing any leakage or misuse. Ahsan Iqbal directed all Principal Accounting Officers to exercise zero tolerance against any leakage or misuse of the resources allocated for development projects. "Funds must be utilized for their intended purpose," he stressed.

Regarding the incorporation of development projects in the next PSDP, the Planning minister instructed the relevant authorities to review the development portfolio and prioritize 'advanced stage' projects that have

completed 70 percent of their work. Additionally, he specified that 'high impact' national priority projects should be given second priority, and all 'low priority projects' should be capped unless the necessary resources become available. He said had the policies introduced by the PML-N government in its previous tenures continued, the country's development budget would now be around Rs3,000 billion, compared to the existing PSDP size of around Rs1100 billion against Rs29,00 billion demands of the ministries. He criticized that almost 40 percent of the federal

government's total PSDP allocations were diverted to street-level projects of provinces during 2018-22, compared to only 14 percent during 2013-18. He pointed out that due to mismanagement and inefficiency, the previous government allowed undue emphasis on street/local level projects, consuming 40 percent of the share and leaving the country with only 60 percent of resources to execute projects of national importance and debt payments. He said the country was in dire need of judicious utilization of available resources to put it on a sustainable path of development and prosperity.

NESPAK supervising Wagha Check Post up-gradation

LAHORE: The Punjab government is busy giving a new look to the joint check post at Wagha Border along the international border with India. Currently, work is in progress on the project under the supervision of NESPAK and expected to be completed by December 2025. A NESPAK spokesman told media here Tuesday that the prestigious "Expansion of Joint Check Post Wagha" project is aimed at enhancing security, facilities, and tourism infrastructure at the Wagha Border crossing. The project's estimated cost is Rs 3,000 million, funded by the Punjab government, and Works Department of Pakistan Rangers Punjab is acting as the client. Recently, Zargham Eshaq Khan, Managing Director of NESPAK, along with Rana Dawood, Executive Vice President of NESPAK, visited the expansion site of Wagha Check Post. They were warmly welcomed by Zulfikar Ali Tariq, Project Manager, along with the NESPAK supervision team, representatives of Pakistan Rangers Punjab, and the contractor, Ms. Shahid Builders. During the visit, Zargham Eshaq Khan thoroughly inspected the site, assessing all potential risks related to Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE). He inquired about the detailed working methodology and project progress. Mr. Khan emphasized the importance of identifying all critical activities and calculating zero float to ensure timely completion of the project. He also directed a detailed radiography of the Pakistan flag to identify all potential risks associated with the relocation of the 410-foot high Pakistan pole at Wagha. Construction work officially commenced on June 10, 2024. The project's duration is 18 months, with a phased completion approach to ensure minimal disruption to border operations. The expansion will increase spectator capacity from 8,000 to 24,000, featuring notable additions such as a state-of-the-art historical museum showcasing the history of the Wagha Border and its significance. Modern waiting lounges with amenities for travelers and tourists. A green room for VIPs and dignitaries. The project involves relocating and increasing the height of the world's 5th tallest flagpole from 115 to 135 meters, making it the world's 3rd highest flagpole. The flagpole will be designed to withstand extreme weather conditions and will be illuminated at night, making it an iconic landmark. The building's design draws inspiration from the crescent and star, symbolizing the historic significance and cultural heritage of the Wagha Border. The design also incorporates sustainable and energy-efficient features. Principal Architect Zulfikar Ali Tariq from the A&P Division at NESPAK House will oversee the project's execution, ensuring timely completion and quality assurance as Project Manager. Meanwhile, Pakistan Rangers strategized an expansion to tackle the issue of limited space, which previously accommodated 8,000 - 9,000 spectators. As per new plan, the sitting capacity of spectators will be increased. Under the new plan, the capacity will be increased to hold between 20,000 - 22,000 people.—DNA

'Maryam Ki Dastak' extended to 11 districts

LAHORE: On the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the 'Maryam Ki Dastak' initiative has extended its reach to 11 districts, now providing 60 plus services directly at citizens' doorsteps. The initiative, aims to improve public service delivery, allow residents to avail a range of services without visiting government offices. Through the 'Dastak Doorstep Delivery App', developed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), citizens can now avail various services including Birth Certificates, FIR copies, Marriage Certificates, Learner's Driving License, Vehicle Ownership Transfers, Property Tax Payments, e-Stamping, and International Driving License Renewal, Police Character Certificates, Tenant Registration, Token Tax Payments, and General Police Verifications and many more. In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf said, "The Maryam Ki Dastak initiative has provided significant relief to various segments of society, including women, the elderly, sick, and working individuals, by eliminating the need to visit offices or stand in long queues." He highlighted that the program is promoting a modern, innovative service delivery model. "We plan to extend the scope of these services across province by the end of 2024, making it even easier for citizens to access vital services from the comfort of their homes," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that the scope of the initiative has been extended to Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Okara, and Pakpattan. Citizens can access government services from the comfort of their homes either through the Dastak Doorstep Delivery App or by calling 1202.—APP

ANF recovers 37 kg Ice from consignment booked for Australia

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation managed to recover 37 kg Ice from a consignment booked for Australia. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an intelligence-based operation conducted at a courier office in Lahore, ANF recovered 37 kg Ice from a parcel containing ladies' handcrafted footwear booked for Australia. During a raid, 20 cartons were seized and ANF after a thorough examination of the consignment, recovered nearly 37 grams Ice, absorbed in each article.—APP

Cars' sale up 27% during July-August 2024

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars during the first two months of the current financial year 2024-25 increased by 27.70 per cent compared to the same months of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said. According to the data, as many as 12,274 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 9,611 units in the same months of last year.—APP

Sindh govt approves 12 new high-yield crop varieties

KARACHI: In a significant move towards boosting agricultural productivity, the Sindh government has approved 12 innovative crop varieties including cotton, wheat, mustard, and ber developed by the province's leading agricultural scientists. During the 36th pivotal meeting of the Sindh Seed Council, chaired by the Sindh Minister for Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar these crop varieties were introduced. The council approved key varieties such as CRS 644, CRS 674, CRS 682, and Mian Resham non-BT cotton, as well as IV-3, Urooj 22, Akbar 19, Subhani 21, and a new pasta wheat variety. Mustard variety Kizola and ber variety Lemai Golo also received approval. Farmers voiced strong concerns during the meeting, highlighting the financial devastation caused by substandard rice seeds from a province, leading to millions in losses

for Sindh's farmers. Taking swift action, Minister Mahar ordered a thorough investigation and demanded an immediate report on the issue. Mahar acknowledged that while there have been improvements in the agricultural sector, more needs to be done to address existing weaknesses. "We will only approve new crop varieties after thorough consultations with farmers," he said, emphasizing the government's commitment to farmers' welfare. Mahar also announced the upcoming Seed Act, which aims to curb counterfeit agricultural products and hold fraudulent companies accountable. He warned that climate change is posing serious threats to agricultural progress, with farmers bearing the brunt of natural disasters. He urged agricultural experts to intensify their research efforts, aligning their work with the changing environmental conditions to safeguard the sector's future. Director General of Research

Mazhar Keerio praised the newly developed varieties, stating they were the result of cutting-edge scientific methods. "These crops will not only boost Sindh's agricultural output but also push the province toward self-sufficiency in key crops," he said. Farmer leader Nadeem Shah echoed this sentiment, expressing optimism that Sindh will soon achieve self-sufficiency in cotton and wheat. The meeting was attended by officials including Agriculture Secretary Rafique Ahmed Buriro, DG of Research Mazhar Keerio, DG of Federal Seed Certification, representatives from leading seed companies, DG of Agriculture Munir Ahmed Juman and others. This strategic approval marks a new chapter in Sindh's agricultural development, laying the groundwork for a more prosperous and self-reliant farming sector.—APP

Exhibition held to celebrate cancer survivors

ISLAMABAD: The second edition of the 'Connecting Dots Series' exhibition, curated by miniature artist and cancer survivor Fatima Salman, continues to attract art enthusiasts at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) through extraordinary artworks. This exhibition features the work of nine cancer survivor visual artists namely Fatima Salman, Sehar Ansari, Mariah Lookman, Gulnaz Ayaz, Shirin Gheba Najib, Maham Imran, Ambreen Rashid Khan, Nafisa Athar, and Srosh Anwar showcasing their powerful journeys through art. Fatima Salman, inspired by her own cancer battle in 2019, launched the Connecting Dots series to provide a platform for cancer survivors to express their experiences. The first exhibition in January 2024 received wide acclaim at the Shaker Ali Museum in Lahore. This second installment features emotional and inspiring artworks, with a special video tribute to artists who lost their lives to cancer. A book titled "My Cancer Journey" was also launched by Shirin Gheba Najib in which she described her journey of fighting cancer, the emotional traumas, and her determination and struggle towards recovery. The exhibition was inaugurated by Former Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Jamal Shah on Tuesday who praised the works of the artist and said that all these wonderful human beings are informed contributors to life, they were able to contribute to their own lives and they were able to invest in their own lives as well.—APP

SEPTEMBER 2024

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

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

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
CAA.....9281092



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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
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Shifa International 4603666



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Indonesia ready to negotiate FTA with: Rahmat Hindiarta

He highlighted the rich history of friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan during a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and a meeting with its President, ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Charge d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy on Wednesday said that Indonesia is ready to negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) with Pakistan, which will promote bilateral trade liberalization and enhance the business volume. In order to narrow the trade gap between Indonesia and Pakistan, the business community and chambers of commerce from both sides have to engage and promote bilateral economic and trade integration and also stress for exchanging of business delegations and market awareness by the chambers on both sides have to be done regularly, he said. He highlighted the rich history of friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan during a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and a meeting with its President, ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. Kusuma stressed the importance of utilizing the existing Indonesia-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement and working towards a Free Trade Agreement. The Charge d'Affaires praised



ICCI's contributions to fostering economic linkages between the two nations and invited members to attend the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia from October 9-12. He further emphasized the need for increased joint events to foster

greater awareness and understanding between the two nations, leading to enhanced business and tourism opportunities. Rahmat Hindiarta encouraged Pakistani businessmen to explore Indonesia's potential for international

trade and investment, emphasizing the need to strengthen business-to-business relations between the two nations. He also highlighted Indonesia's strategic location and established trade ties with the ASEAN region, offering

Pakistani businesses access to a market of over 650 million consumers of ASEAN. The diplomat noted that Pakistan can become a trade hub for Indonesia in Central Asia, benefiting both countries through comprehensive planning. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized Pakistan's status as Indonesia's 6th largest trade partner in Asia, with relations based on mutual trust and confidence. He underscored the need for regular trade delegation exchanges and reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the Indonesian Embassy. Bakhtawari noted that collaborative efforts and mutual understanding are key to overcoming trade challenges, and that working together can unlock new opportunities and enhance economic prosperity. He emphasized the importance of increasing bilateral trade volume, which is currently below its potential, and highlighted the role of Central Asian markets in further increasing trade relations. He also underlined the need for direct flights between the two countries further strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations between both the countries.

Al-Shifa screens 175000 children at free eye camps

The second-largest disease found was myopia, as almost thirty per cent of the children had near-sightedness or myopia. Myopia is a common vision condition in which light rays that should be focused on nerve tissue at the back of the eye are focused in front of the retina instead

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust has screened about 175,000 students in one year in 550 free eye camps organized in the underserved areas of the country. Dr Hasan Raza, Deputy General Manager of Al-Shifa Center for Community Ophthalmology (ACCO), said fifty per cent of the kids with eye issues had hazey vision, while many had congenital cataracts. Talking to media men, he said that 50 per cent of the children were facing blurry vision, which is convergence insufficiency. It happens when the nerves

controlling eye muscles don't work correctly. One eye turns out when people with convergence insufficiency look at something up close. The second-largest disease found was myopia, as almost thirty per cent of the children had near-sightedness or myopia. Myopia is a common vision condition in which light rays that should be focused on nerve tissue at the back of the eye are focused in front of the retina instead. Dr Hasan said that the number of congenital cataracts is alarming. It's essential to spot cataracts in children quickly because early treatment can reduce the risk of long-term vision

problems. ACCO refers such children to Al-Shifa Trust Hospital, Rawalpindi, providing them with transport and meals. He said free eye camps were organized in the remote areas of districts Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Kohat, Muzaffarabad, and Chakwal. In these camps, 175000 students were screened and treated, and 13000 cases were referred to Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital. He informed that the children were also found suffering from eye problems, such as blepharitis, hyperopia, squint, corneal opacity, traumatic cataracts, astigmatism, and conjunctivitis. He said that ACCO's main objec-

ive is to organize school screening eye camps to help children facing eye diseases at an early age and educate them about preventive measures to keep their eyes healthy. The trust began its outreach project in 1992. Its free eye camps are established all over Pakistan, and such camps are being increased to help people in far-flung areas, where most patients lack the resources to access quality healthcare. He underlined that eye-related problems are increasing at an alarming pace; therefore, all public and private concerns should boost their efforts to combat this menace.

IWMB to dismantle restaurants on Pir Sohawa Road

ISLAMABAD: Before large restaurants were built on the ridge on Pir Sohawa Road in the heart of Margallah Hills National Park (MHNP), the breezy hill top with great views of the city was visited freely by the public. The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) intends to restore this hill top to free public access. "The buildings will be dismantled from September 12th and the area around them rewilded and re-integrated into the natural landscape that surrounds them as per the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan," am IWMB news release said. IWMB has notified an implementation committee comprising Govt officials from the District Administration, Islamabad Police, Capital Development Authority, Ministry of Climate Change and restoration experts and concerned citizens who have set up an enforcement task force. Machinery and labor provided by CDA will dismantle the restaurants including the removal of debris. A restoration model for the hill top has been approved by members of the committee and an architect will be hired. The hill top will be transformed into an open air space that promotes both public engagement and wildlife conservation. The plan is to create a Margallah Viewpoint that enhances public enjoyment while promoting awareness of indigenous flora and fauna. For this there will be: -Installation of comfortable benches for visitors to relax and enjoy the scenic views. Planting of local flora to support biodiversity and create a natural habitat for wildlife. -Installation of educational displays featuring indigenous wildlife species to raise awareness about local biodiversity. A water harvesting system will be installed along with a reservoir to promote sustainable water use and management. The retaining walls of the terraces will remain but concrete inside will be removed for plantation.—DNA

IFA seals ketchup unit; discards over 1000 kg sauces

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Dr. Tahira Saddique led by a food safety team (FST) has conducted a raid at a ketchup production unit in Model Town. During the operation, the IFA seized over 1,000 kilograms of sauces, 100 kilograms of ketchup, 130 kilograms of apricot sauce, and 82 kilograms of illegal additives. The authority immediately sealed the unit after discovering violations of food safety regulations. Talking to APP, Dr Tahira Saddique said that the IFA has intensified its efforts to combat the production and sale of unsafe food products. A recent raid uncovered serious violations at a ketchup manufacturing unit in Model Town, leading to significant seizures and the closure of the unit. She said that the ketchup did not meet the required standard of brix, a key indicator of sugar content in the product. The investigation revealed that the ketchup and sauces were being produced using powdered apricot paste mixed with banned colors, raising concerns about consumer safety. The raid also uncovered a range of other health risks. Inspectors found insects in the storage drums, as well as broken floors and non-food utensils being used in the production process, further compromising the hygiene of the products, she added.—APP

New legislation to unlock IT sector's potential

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Senator Afnan Ullah Khan Wednesday assured that the government is committed to the IT sector's growth and development and is working diligently to introduce necessary legislation to address digital challenges and promote IT exports. In an exclusive talk with a private news channel, PML-N Senator Afnan Ullah Khan has announced that the government is set to introduce new legislation aimed at unlocking the full potential of the IT sector, adding, this move is expected to boost IT exports, create jobs, and drive economic growth. Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan has introduced a bill to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) in Pakistan. The Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2024, aims to provide a framework for the development, deployment and use of AI technologies in the coun-

try. The bill will be debated and discussed in the Senate and National Assembly, he said, adding, the bill will be open for public consultation to gather feedback and suggestions from stakeholders. The bill will be enacted into law after approval from both houses of parliament, he further explained. Senator Afnan Ullah Khan expressed optimism that the new legislation will bring fruitful results in the coming years, transforming the IT sector into a significant contributor to Pakistan's economy. The senator was confident that the legislation will enable Pakistan's IT sector to flourish, making it an attractive destination for investment, talent and innovation. The government is working tirelessly to transform Pakistan into a digital superpower with a focus on resolving all issues related to the internet, he said. This ambitious goal aims to provide citizens with seamless and smooth internet access, driving economic

growth, innovation and digital inclusivity, he added. Responding to a query, Senator assured that the government is actively addressing internet-related issues, including connectivity, speed, and affordability. He emphasized that these issues will be resolved soon, enabling people to fully leverage the internet's potential. The senator expressed optimism about Pakistan's digital future, stating that the government's efforts will soon bear fruit, and citizens will enjoy a seamless digital experience. To another question, Senator Afnan Ullah Khan clarified that the government strongly believes in freedom of expression, but emphasized that baseless allegations without proof can harm the country's image and institutions. He noted that unfounded allegations can have serious consequences, including damaging investor confidence and tarnishing the country's global image. The senator emphasized that Pakistan will learn from international best practices

PTV, PTV World to be revamped: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that the state-run Pakistan Television (PTV) and PTV World were being revamped following the modern era demands. Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that services of anchors from the private sector were hired to introduce a new face of PTV which truly depicted it as a state institution. They wanted that the opposition members could also get proper space at PTV, he added. Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan would host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit next month adding that it was imperative to revamp the English Channel. He added that the PTV World would become voice of Pakistan during the ECO Conference. To a question, he said that the government had announced Rs 37000 per month minimum wages during the federal budget. The minimum wage criterion has already been implemented in around 15 attached departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting except PTV, he said.—APP

Senator Sherry Rehman pays homage to 'Quaid-e-Azam'

ISLAMABAD: PPP Senator Sherry Rehman paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his death anniversary and encouraged Pakistanis to reflect on Jinnah's vision and work towards a more inclusive, tolerant and democratic society. In her message with a private news channel, Senator Sherry underscores the critical need for unity and collective effort to overcome the challenges that have held Pakistan back. By putting aside differences and working together towards a common goal, Pakistanis can unlock their nation's full potential and create a brighter future, she added. Senator Sherry Rehman reaffirmed her commitment to carrying forward the struggle for a peaceful, prosperous, and egalitarian Pakistan as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. She vowed to continue working towards a society where every citizen has equal opportunities and rights.—APP



PAKISTAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

HEADQUARTERS, PROCUREMENT CELL, ISLAMABAD

TENDER NOTICE

(INVITATION TO E-BID)

Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) invites electronic Bids/Proposals under (Single Stage Two Envelope Method Rule 36(b) of PPRA Rules 2004) through e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) from well reputed, financially sound Original Equipments Manufacturers (OEMs) or their authorized Sole Distributors in Pakistan and registered with income and sales tax departments having valid Registration & NTN in Pakistan. For Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Testing of 3-KW Digital FM Transmitters at 29 different sites detailed as tabulated below for PSDP PROJECT Titled "ESTABLISHMENT OF FM SAUTUL QURAN FM NETWORK PHASE-III" against Tender Inquiry No. ENG/PROC-4(261)/24

Sr. No	Description/Items	Qty.	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Completion period
01.	03 KW DRM ready FM Transmitter along with Antenna system, Programme Input Equipment Rack, RF Coaxial Cable(100 meter) & Complete Earthing System on DDP Turnkey basis (One Complete Solution)	28 Nos.	Rs.5000/- (Bank draft in favour of the Controller	120 days
02.	03 KW DRM Operational FM Transmitter (Included all equipment to make it operational) along with Antenna system, Programme Input Equipment Rack(01),RF Cable(100 - meter)& Complete Earthing System on DDP Turnkey basis(One Complete Solution)	01 No	Procurement Cell,) PBC Headquarters Islamabad)	

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- E-bidding documents as per regulations, containing detailed terms and conditions, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk).
- The electronic bids must be submitted by using EPADS upto 15-10-2024 (Tuesday) by 02:00 p.m. Manual bids shall not be accepted. Electronic bids will be opened 30 minutes after the closing time on same day & date.
- Bid security 02% is to be submitted in shape of CDR from any scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of "The Controller (Procurement Cell), PBC, HQs, Islamabad".
- The participating bidders must attend pre-bid meeting 15days (dated: 30-09-2024) prior to submission of bid.

Note: All other terms & conditions including bidding document are also available on the Radio website: www.radio.gov.pk

PID(1)1780/24

Muhammad Rafiq, Controller (Procurement Cell)

Room No. 214, 2nd Floor, PBC, HQs, G-5, Islamabad, & E-mail: controller.proc@gmail.com Phone: 051-9215824

Briefs

OEC to export skilled workforce to Ghana

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) would export the skilled workforce to an African country Ghana in the field of construction. An official source told APP here on Tuesday, he said that the demand of Pakistani workers is increasing day by day in the different countries because Pakistani workers are very hard workers as compare to the other labour force of the region countries. He said that Ghana required flooring and decorative concrete specialist with minimum of 8 years experience in concrete works, waterproofing, and flooring systems. Well experienced in epoxy and polyurethane flooring systems, capable of waterproofing new structures and existing structures, capable of casting perfectly leveled concrete slabs and screeds, must speak and write English, able to understand construction maps, basic computer knowledge (excel, word, etc.). The source revealed that Male with the age of 30-40 Years will be the suitable for above jobs and salary package 400-800 US\$ as per the candidate's skills and experience. In addition, he told about the term & conditions of the job that the company will provide accommodation, the company will provide transportation for local movements (like motorbike), end of every year return air ticket to their home country, if the employee doesn't want to go back to Pakistan then he can claim equal amount of return air ticket or one-month extra salary whichever is higher. Company will not provided the Insurance. Employee should do insurance from their self if required. He said that the interested candidate could apply via OEC's website <https://oec.gov.pk/>—APP

Expert calls for workplace culture shift to prioritize children's mental health

ISLAMABAD: As the world grapples with a growing mental health crisis, renowned Psychologist Dr. Asma Naheed Wednesday urged employers to revolutionize their workplace culture to prioritize the mental health and well-being of their employees' children. In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan Dr. Naheed stressed that fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace culture is essential to promoting productivity, job satisfaction, and overall quality of life. Her timely remarks come as mental health issues continue to rise globally, underscoring the urgent need for proactive measures to address this critical aspect of employee welfare. Mental health issues among children are reaching alarming levels, with anxiety, depression, and trauma affecting millions of young people worldwide, he said. Dr. Asma Naheed emphasized that students should learn practical skills for real-life situations so that they can easily excel in the corporate sector. She said that Pakistan has a large youth population, which is actually Pakistan's asset and that we need to equip our students with skills alongside education so that they can become productive members of society and manage their own educational expenses. She also stressed the importance of training young people in time management, behavioral management and anger management so they can become valuable individuals and contribute positively to organization and society. Dr. Asma Naheed said that through hope, we must enlighten lives and spread positive messages among our people. Dr. Naheed also highlighted the importance of financial independence for young people. By acquiring skills and knowledge, students can increase their earning potential and manage their own educational expenses, breaking the cycle of dependency on others.—APP

Experts call for resumption of Iran Nuclear negotiations

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director of Centre for International Security Studies and Pakistan's former envoy to IAEA, provided a detailed historical overview of Iran's nuclear program. He also touched upon the international community's suspicions about Iran's nuclear program and noted that despite Iran's compliance with certain inspections, considerable doubts persisted, leading to heightened tensions and breakdown of negotiations with the P5+1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a roundtable discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), several experts maintained that the West bore greater responsibility for bringing nuclear negotiations back on track with Iran. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, highlighted that while nuclear weapons brought about strategic stability in some instances, they also resulted in arms races in other situations. Ambassador Saleem cautioned that the break down of negotiations might lead to a major change in Iran's stated nuclear policy, which in turn could start a chain reaction in the Middle East in terms of a quest for nuclear capability. Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director of Centre for International Security Studies and Pakistan's former envoy to IAEA, provided a detailed historical overview of Iran's nuclear program. He also touched upon the international community's suspicions about Iran's nuclear program and noted that despite Iran's compliance with certain inspections, considerable doubts persisted, leading to heightened tensions and breakdown of negotiations with the P5+1. He underscored that Iran had a right to peaceful nuclear technology being a signatory of Nuclear Non-proliferation



Treaty (NPT) so long as it met its treaty obligations. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences at Quaid-i-Azam University, traced the evolution of Iran's nuclear posture through three significant phases. He highlighted Iran's initial nuclear devel-

opments under Atoms for Peace program of the US in 1950s, its eventual signing of the NPT in 1970s and its current uranium enrichment activities following US withdrawal from JCPOA. Syed Muhammad Ali, Chairperson PEMRA Council of Com-

plaints and a prominent security expert, analysed Iran's nuclear program through five distinct phases, highlighting its diplomatic, technological, economic, strategic, and political dimensions. He felt that economic sanctions imposed on Iran had

been counterproductive as Iran's nuclear posture would essentially be determined by Israeli motives, not economic factors. The seminar was attended by diplomats, security experts, researchers, academics, media personnel and students.

Dialogue titled 'from Cryosphere to Coast' held

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) and the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), launched a three-day Policy Dialogue titled, "Tackling Climate Change Impacts on Cryosphere, Water, Food Security, & Disaster Risk Reduction." The event convened officials from relevant departments of federal and subnational governments in Pakistan, bringing diverse stakeholders together to address critical challenges posed by climate change and to develop strategies for effective policy implementation. Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General of ICIMOD, emphasized in his welcome remarks the vital role ICIMOD plays in addressing the complex environmental challenges of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region. "Pakistan,

with 7,253 glaciers—the highest number outside the polar regions—is vulnerable to both floods and droughts. We must improve access to climate data for at-risk communities," he stated, highlighting that although technologies exist, scaling them effectively remains a challenge. Dr. Gyamtsho stressed that disaster risk reduction should focus beyond preparedness and prevention, urging investment in planning and implementation. Aisha Khan, Chief Executive of CSCCC, underscored the ecological significance of mountains and the interconnectedness between upstream and downstream communities. She called for an "all-of-government and all-of-society" approach to climate change adaptation, emphasizing the need for a shift from merely identifying gaps to real time implementation. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change at MoCC&EC, delivered a keynote speech highlighting the importance of the

Indus River, which supplies freshwater to the people of Pakistan but is under severe stress due to rising temperatures. She pointed to the government's efforts, including the Living Indus Project, Recharge Pakistan, and GLOF-II, which aim to address water scarcity and the growing risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). "Climate change knows no borders," she remarked, stressing the need for cross-sector coordination, investment in sustainable practices, and community-based adaptation to build resilience. Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), emphasized the alarming impact of warming on the cryosphere, revealing that glacial melt in the Indus River basin is accelerating at a dangerous rate. He cited a 23.3% decrease in snow cover between November 2023 and April 2024 and an annual glacial melt rate of 3%, with an additional 16% mass loss over the past five years. He warned that while melting

may provide temporary water surpluses, the long-term implications are dire and require urgent attention. He urged on the need for a regional approach to address the cryospheric crisis. Dr. Arun Bakhta Shrestha, Strategic Group Lead at ICIMOD, elaborated on the future of water availability in the HKH region, noting that glaciers in the region could lose between 30-75% of their ice volume by the end of the century, depending on the pace of global warming. "The Indus River Basin, with the highest Water Tower Index (WTI) in the world, is the most vulnerable," he said. "As ice melt begins earlier, it will impact spring and autumn flows, exacerbating water scarcity for communities reliant on glacial meltwater for agriculture." Dr. Shrestha stressed that innovation, implementation, and financing are essential to address the looming water crisis related to cryosphere. Special remarks delivered by Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhry, Acting Secretary of MoCC&EC

HEC commits to enhancing women leadership in higher education sector

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has committed to enhancing women leadership in higher education sector, knowing the fact that they constitute a major part of faculty across all higher education institutions in Pakistan but their representation in senior roles remains limited. Realizing this, three years ago, HEC initiated Women Leadership Programme under its project Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP), said a press release on Tuesday. HEDP is strengthening HEC's National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) on various fronts – the Women Leadership Program is one of these key initiatives. Under the Women Leadership Program a total of 161 women leaders have already been trained across Pakistan in all the four major provinces. The program equipped female academic and non-academic staff on governance in higher education, recruitment policies, managing work-life balance, gender and workplace communication, public procurement rules, financial management and strategic communication. The program also provided personal and professional development opportunities and exposes participants to international best practices in women's leadership. The alumni of the program have made significant progress in their career moving up in the ladders, with one of the alumni is now a Vice Chancellor of the Shaheed Allah Baksh Soomro University of Arts, Design and Heritage, Jamshoro, which is one of the co-education public sector universities of Sindh. As the HEDP project is attaining its maturity, HEC decided to sustain this initiative and develop women mentors who via a cascading model to train and develop other women leaders in academic sector empowering more female employees in the universities of Pakistan.—DNA

UN Women advocates for gender equality via PSI

ISLAMABAD: UN Women Pakistan hosted an event in Islamabad on Tuesday titled "Shaping Tomorrow: Private Sector Engagement in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment." The primary objective of the event was to advocate for greater involvement of private enterprises in driving gender equality initiatives, recognizing the critical role that businesses play in fostering inclusive economic growth. By engaging the private sector, UN Women seeks to create more opportunities for women's participation in the workforce, leadership roles, and entrepreneurship, as well as ensure that gender-sensitive policies are integrated into corporate practices. In her opening remarks, Maria Holsberg - UN Women Country Representative a.i. emphasized the importance of collaboration with the private sector to achieve sustainable progress toward gender equality. "The private sector has the power to accelerate the transformation we need for women's economic empowerment. By investing in women, businesses not only strengthen

their operations but also contribute to the broader development of society," She further added, "Empowering women economically is a key to unlocking their full potential. This means ensuring equal pay for equal work, providing opportunities for women in leadership, and supporting women entrepreneurs. When women have the means and opportunities to contribute economically, entire communities' benefit, leading to improved health, education, and social outcomes. In keynote remarks, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan the Minister of Commerce, highlighted the importance of digital inclusion as a pathway to economic equality. "The private sector plays a major role in driving change, and today's event has showcased the need of collaboration in achieving gender equality. Technology is the great equalizer, and digital inclusion is the bridge to economic equality. By prioritizing digital inclusion, we can remove the barriers that have historically kept women out of the economic mainstream. Ministry of Commerce, through its new e-commerce policy, will empower women

by implementing various policies and facilitation measures," the minister asserted. The event also featured two insightful panel discussions. The first, "Leveraging Digital and Financial Inclusion for Enhanced Livelihoods of Our Women and Girls," focused on improving access to finance and digital resources. Key speakers included Musarat Jabeen from SECP, who discussed improving access to finance for women entrepreneurs; Shumaila Rifaqat from Karandaaz, who spoke about promoting access to SMEs and financial inclusion; and Nadeem Malik from P@SHA, who addressed the gender digital divide. Ms. Rabia Khatak - Jazz shared insights on bridging the digital divide through technology and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. The second panel, "Investing in Women's Leadership in the Private Sector," highlighted the importance of supporting women in leadership roles within the business sector. This discussion featured Ms. Nazia from JICA, Mr. Ehsan Malik, CEO of Pakistan Business Council.—APP

Anti-polio drive continues in ICT; 2 held for violations

ISLAMABAD: A five-day door-to-door anti-polio vaccination campaign entered its second day in the Federal Capital while a school principal was arrested for refusing to allow students to receive the polio vaccine. All the Assistant Commissioners for Enhanced Livelihoods of Our Women and Girls, focused on improving access to finance and digital resources. Key speakers included Musarat Jabeen from SECP, who discussed improving access to finance for women entrepreneurs; Shumaila Rifaqat from Karandaaz, who spoke about promoting access to SMEs and financial inclusion; and Nadeem Malik from P@SHA, who addressed the gender digital divide. Ms. Rabia Khatak - Jazz shared insights on bridging the digital divide through technology and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. The second panel, "Investing in Women's Leadership in the Private Sector," highlighted the importance of supporting women in leadership roles within the business sector. This discussion featured Ms. Nazia from JICA, Mr. Ehsan Malik, CEO of Pakistan Business Council.—APP



PNCA pays musical tribute to renowned music composer

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Some well-known singers paid musical tribute to the renowned composer Master Ghulam Haider organised by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). The singers included Bano Rehmat, Raees Ahmad, Niazi Brothers, and Humera Channa who sang Urdu and Punjab popular songs. The Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayoub Jamali said the work of master composers, singers and instrumentalists is the heritage asset of the country. The PNCA is putting all its efforts to popularise and preserve it for the future generations. He said Master Ghulam Haider is the one who initiated the Punjabi school of thought in the film industry while the Bengali school of music was ruling the Lahore, the second biggest hub of the film industry in the subcontinent.

AIUO hosts workshop on business model canvas

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University's (AIUO) Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) held a one-day workshop on "Business Model Canvas" for 50 BS and MS students. Danish Junaid, CEO of Seed Investor, served as the resource person, providing guidance on business planning, strategy development, and problem-solving, said a press release. He explained essential business tools like customer segments, value propositions, marketing, key resources, and cost structures. Dr. Saima Nasir, Additional Director of Research at ORIC, highlighted the importance of fostering entrepreneurship among students to drive sustainable economic growth, enabling them to create jobs and contribute to the country's development. After receiving training, students were given 10 minutes to develop and present their business models, which they successfully completed within the allotted time. Dr. Saima Nasir assured that, under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, such workshops would continue to build students' capacity in entrepreneurship. ORIC Senior Research Assistant Owais Ashraf provided support throughout the session. At the conclusion of the workshop, certificates were distributed to the participants, marking the event as part of the university's ongoing Golden Jubilee.—APP

Buffer zones

IN mid-August, Alaa Srouji was surprised when the Israeli army handed him a notice to remove his greenhouses near Tulkarm. The official reason was that he did not have a permit for them, but when the other farmers in the area received similar notices at the same time, concerns were raised. Many now suspect that "Israel" may be planning to establish a buffer zone in the Shweika Plain area. Israeli media reported that settlers have been calling for the establishment of buffer zones, under the pretext of preventing armed infiltration of Israeli-occupied territory, similar to what happened on October 7. However, Palestinian human rights and research centers have confirmed that these allegations cover dangerous goals: seizing additional Palestinian land to further settlement expansion. Srouji is a member of the Sun Roots Agricultural Cooperative Society, which plays a major role in helping farmers in Tulkarm in the face of Israeli policies. But these efforts became subject to restrictions after the Israeli army handed them notices to demolish two greenhouses in the Shweika Plain under the pretext that they were not licensed. "Although the greenhouses have been there for 14 years and provide livelihoods for many farmers and locals, Israel now intends to remove them," he told media. At the same time, six other farmers were told to disassemble their greenhouses or refrain from accessing their cultivated lands in the same area, all under the same pretext. The association submitted an objection but didn't receive any response. With the deadline for objections passing in early September, the greenhouses now face the imminent threat of demolition at any moment. "When we submitted the objection, we learned that the reason for the notice was the proximity of the facilities to the Beit Hefer settlement, even though it is about 400 meters away," he added. The establishment of buffer zones in the West Bank is divided into two parts: one separates the Palestinians from the apartheid wall that "Israel" erected in 2002, encircling the Palestinian lands, while the other surrounds the settlements scattered throughout the West Bank. Last November, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich emphasized "the necessity of establishing buffer zones around West Bank settlements to protect them from any attack," according to the Jerusalem Post. In February, the Israeli army issued a decision to seize 18 dunams of land from the village of Deir Dibwan, east of Ramallah, citing "urgent military purposes" as the justification. However, the villagers soon discovered that the decision was actually aimed at establishing a buffer zone around the Mitzpe Dani settlement, which was built on their lands. The mayor of Deir Dibwan, Imad Musbih, told Al Mayadeen English that the seizure of these lands expresses the actual implementation of the buffer zone concept proposed by Smotrich last year. The landowners were taken aback by this decision and tried to file objections, but to no avail, according to him. The Israeli goal, he said, is clear and resolute, and Palestinians are not allowed to stand against it.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 246

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Debt forgiveness

AS more than 50 African leaders gathered in Beijing last week to celebrate closer ties and cut deals, Olufemi Taiwo, a leading political philosopher from Nigeria was scathing in his assessment. "This is less about China and more about the lack of self-respect from Africa's leaders," the professor of Africana studies at Cornell University told My Take. "It is unbelievable that the same people who deride colonialism think that they are better off putting themselves in the care of another who poses a serious threat to their sovereignties." The author of *Against Decolonisation: Taking African Agency Seriously*, Taiwo said it was about time Africa's leaders took responsibility for their own mismanagement. "My criticism is not of China, but of African leaders – let's be clear about that," he said. "There is no economy outside of South Africa that is a productive economy. If you are not producing, how are you going to pay your debt? All those countries that are taking up debts – it's not as if they are putting the debts into something that will generate something new." Beijing has pledged nearly US\$51 billion in aid and investment over three years to the continent. It will exempt import tariffs from 33 African nations and expand their access to the Chinese domestic market. Borrowing was necessary, Taiwo said; the problem was how debts were negotiated and used. "You cannot modernise an economy without debt," he said. "That's not my beef. It's about producing. You take a country like Nigeria. Beyond the raw goods that Africa has always exported, what are the value-added items that Nigeria sends to China in trade?" Beijing will waive intergovernmental interest-free loans to 33 African countries due by the end of the year, accounting for roughly 5 per cent of the total loans China has made on the continent. Some critics said the debt forgiveness was too little. But Taiwo said African leaders needed to own up to the debts, impose austerity if necessary and start producing and growing their economies. "Whatever it is, debt forgiveness should not be one of them [the solutions] ... with all the implications for [Africans] agency and respect that brings in its wake," he said. "Otherwise you are confirming that you are permanent children or you don't know what you are doing." Today, about half the economies in Africa are either in, or at risk of, debt distress. Taiwo said other countries had been forced to face hardship and austerity in such a situation. Why should African countries be different? "When the Asian financial crisis hit in 1997, South Korea went down a very hard road," he said. "The IMF had to advance US\$66 billion for Indonesia to stabilise its currency. Where is Indonesia today? It manufactures things, exports value-added goods." Countries within the European Union had to face the same treatment. "After 2008, Greece was almost kicked out of the EU, and it had to swallow those very, very bitter pills. Look at where Greece is today," Taiwo said. "Ireland, the same, Spain, the same. That's the capitalist system that the world is operating in." With foreign investment, there needs to be the transfer of knowledge, expertise and technology.

Reviving educational values in Pakistan

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The curriculum should also include a focus on the practical implementation of Islamic teachings in everyday life. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was not just a spiritual leader but also a statesman, military commander, and reformer. His life offers valuable lessons on leadership, conflict resolution, diplomacy, and social welfare. These aspects of his life can serve as case studies in subjects like civics, history, and political science, demonstrating how Islamic values can be applied to solve modern problems. For instance, students could study the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah as a model of negotiation and peace-making, or examine...

THE education curriculum of Pakistan holds immense potential to shape the future of the nation by embedding core values, ethics, and knowledge essential for holistic development. In this light, the integration of the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), known as Sirat-ul-Nabi, into our curriculum can offer a profound framework for nurturing not just academic excellence but also moral and spiritual growth in students. Sirat-ul-Nabi is a complete guide on how to live a life of integrity, compassion, and righteousness, offering lessons on governance, personal behavior, and societal interaction. These lessons should not be merely relegated to Islamic studies, but interwoven into the broader fabric of Pakistan's educational system.

One of the most profound aspects of the Prophet's (PBUH) life was his commitment to knowledge and learning. His first revelation emphasized the importance of reading and seeking knowledge, "Iqra" (Read), which underlines the Islamic view that education is a fundamental right for every individual, irrespective of gender or social status. The Quran states, "Are those who have knowledge equal to those who do not have knowledge?" (Surah Az-Zumar, 39:9), underscoring the divine emphasis on acquiring education. In Pakistan, where access to quality education remains uneven, it is vital to draw upon this lesson. The curriculum should ensure that the right to education is safeguarded and extended to all segments of society, particularly girls and children from marginalized communities. The Quran explicitly stresses equality in education and learning for both men and women: "...And say, 'My Lord, increase me in knowledge'" (Surah Taha, 20:114). Sirat-ul-Nabi advocates for an inclusive and egalitarian approach to education, which should be at the heart of our reforms.

The life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also teaches the importance of ethical behavior, justice, and empathy, which are values that can transform individuals and societies. Implementing these principles within the Pakistani curriculum would mean incorporating character-building as a core part of education. Instead of focusing solely on rote memorization or technical skills, the curriculum should encourage students to reflect on their moral responsibilities as human beings and as Muslims. For instance, students should be taught the importance of truthfulness, kindness, patience, and justice—values that the Prophet (PBUH) upheld throughout his life. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best among you are those who have the best manners and character"

(Sahih Bukhari). Such lessons, if incorporated from an early age, can contribute to building a more ethical, compassionate, and just society.

The curriculum should also include a focus on the practical implementation of Islamic teachings in everyday life. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was not just a spiritual leader but also a statesman, military commander, and reformer. His life offers valuable lessons on leadership, conflict resolution, diplomacy, and social welfare. These aspects of his life can serve as case studies in subjects like civics, history, and political science, demonstrating how Islamic values can be applied to solve modern problems. For instance, students could study the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah as a model of negotiation and peace-making, or examine the concept of Zakat (charity) and its relevance to modern-day social justice issues. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The one who looks after a widow or a poor person is like a warrior who fights for Allah's cause" (Sahih Bukhari). These lessons would help students understand how Islamic principles can be adapted to contemporary contexts, fostering a sense of civic duty and moral leadership. Moreover, the teachings of Sirat-ul-Nabi stress the importance of critical thinking and inquiry. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encouraged his followers to seek answers, reflect, and use reason to understand the world around them. Unfortunately, the current curriculum in Pakistan often discourages critical thinking in favor of rote learning. By adopting the Prophet's approach, we can reform our education system to promote curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills. The curriculum should encourage students to question, debate, and engage with ideas, rather than merely memorizing facts. The Quran invites believers to reflect on the signs of Allah: "Do they not reflect upon the Quran, or are there locks upon their hearts?" (Surah Muhammad, 47:24). This approach would not only produce more intellectually capable individuals but also help students develop a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings, free from dogma or extremism.

A balanced education system must also recognize the importance of both religious and secular knowledge. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) exemplified the harmonious coexistence of religious devotion and worldly affairs. He was deeply spiritual, but he also emphasized the importance of practical skills and knowledge necessary for daily life. The Quran says, "And He taught Adam the names of all things" (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:31), highlighting the importance of worldly knowledge. The Pakistani curriculum must reflect this balance. While

religious education is important, subjects like science, mathematics, economics, and technology should also be given equal importance. Integrating Islamic principles with modern disciplines can create a more holistic educational experience, where students are prepared to navigate the complexities of the modern world while staying rooted in their religious identity.

Incorporating Sirat-ul-Nabi into the curriculum also means fostering a sense of unity and brotherhood among students. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was known for uniting people from different backgrounds and tribes under a common cause. In a country as diverse as Pakistan, it is essential that our education system promotes unity and tolerance among students of different ethnicities, sects, and backgrounds. Lessons on the Prophet's inclusivity, his efforts to eradicate tribalism, and his respect for different cultures should be a central theme in subjects like social studies and history. Allah commands in the Quran, "Hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided" (Surah Al-Imran, 3:103). This will help students appreciate diversity and foster a more cohesive and tolerant society.

Additionally, the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) encourage self-discipline and hard work, qualities that are essential for personal and national development. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Verily, Allah loves that when anyone of you does a job, he should perfect it" (Al-Bayhaqi). In today's world, where instant gratification and shortcuts are often glorified, Sirat-ul-Nabi offers timeless lessons on perseverance and dedication. These values can be instilled in students through extracurricular activities, school policies, and teaching methods that emphasize effort, consistency, and ethical conduct in all endeavors. In conclusion, Pakistan's education curriculum has the potential to be a transformative force by integrating the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). By doing so, we can foster not only academic excellence but also ethical and moral development in our students.

The teachings of Sirat-ul-Nabi provide a comprehensive guide for personal conduct, social justice, leadership, and the pursuit of knowledge—all of which are crucial for building a peaceful, prosperous, and just society. Implementing these principles within our education system will ensure that the future generation of Pakistanis is equipped with both the intellectual and moral tools to face the challenges of the modern world while staying true to their religious and cultural heritage.

Free my Country

THE September 8th public meeting did not attract the large crowd the PTI leadership had hoped for—one that could have put significant pressure on the government and provided much-needed public support for the PTI's key demands, which included the release of Imran Khan, the configuration of election results based on Form 45, the release of arrested workers, the army stepping back from politics, and ensuring the judiciary's independence. However, ironically, the government ended up aiding the PTI's cause by placing containers to block all routes to the venue, dispersing the crowd with tear gas, and making a series of arrests after the event. These unnecessary and poorly thought-out actions by the government ultimately played into the PTI's hands. As the media shifted its focus from the less-than-expected turnout to the government's aggressive and disproportionate response, it inadvertently boosted the PTI's narrative. Had the government not taken such measures, it might have dampened PTI's momentum, demoralized its leadership, and disillusioned its supporters. But, unfortunately for the government and establishment, and fortunately for the PTI, the government did exactly what it should have avoided. To add insult to the injury, the arrest of PTI parliamentarians within the premises of the parliament and the rumors of abduction of the Chief Minister and other leaders catapulted the popularity of the PTI to new heights, increased its sympathy vote and conversely eroded the political capital of the government and the establishment. Instead of exercising grace and restraint, the government responded to the tall claims, threats, and foul language from the opposition with even worse language. Rana Sanaullah, the government spokesman and de facto spokesperson for the establishment, hurled even more severe accusations and threats, reminiscent of the way Sultan Rahi used to challenge villains in old movies. He went as far as to challenge the KP Chief Minister, daring him to enter Punjab and face severe consequences. Sanaullah warned that the Chief Minister would not be allowed to hold a public meeting at Minar-e-Pakistan and would be insulted in a manner even worse than what was done to the Punjab Chief Minister. These statements flagrantly disregarded

the constitutional rights guaranteed to every citizen of Pakistan. Article 15 of the Constitution ensures the "freedom of movement", stating, "Every citizen shall have the right to remain in, and, subject to any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the public interest, enter and move freely throughout Pakistan and to reside and settle in any part thereof." Further, Article 16 guarantees the "freedom of assembly", providing that "Every citizen shall have the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of public order." Finally, Article 19 guarantees "freedom of speech", ensuring that every citizen has the right to express their views, subject to restrictions related to the glory of Islam, national security, and public order. The threats and challenges issued by the government's spokesperson clearly violated these fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution, which protect every citizen, including public figures like the KP Chief Minister.

In its reactive press conference, the PTI accused the government and establishment of subverting the Constitution, violating laws and regulations, disrespecting the sanctity of Parliament, abducting party leaders and workers, and suffocating the freedoms of the press, speech, and assembly—rights guaranteed under the Constitution. During the press conference, the PTI leaders expressed regret for any inadvertent remarks made against the state, the military, and women in general. However, they stood by the substantive parts of the speech, particularly those delivered by the KP Chief Minister. The General Secretary fully endorsed the Chief Minister's statements regarding the role of the Army. Specifically, he supported the claim that the military should "put its house in order" and return to its barracks, vacating roles not constitutionally mandated to them. He emphasized that the Army should refrain from interfering in the electoral process, influencing the selection of parliamentarians, and undermining the people's mandate. Furthermore, he called for the military to divest from its business, investment, trade, and real estate ventures, as these activities fall outside the Army's core constitutional responsibilities. His key demand was for the Establishment to loosen its iron grip on the country, free

the country and allow the nation and its people to breathe freely. The speaker apologized for the part of the speech that insulted journalists but endorsed the substantive claim, stating that conducting interviews in the drawing rooms of individuals who were abducted, tortured, and coerced into giving confessional statements under duress goes against the established norms and ethics of journalism.

They also apologized for the derogatory remarks made against Parliament but stood by the part where the KP Chief Minister referred to it as a "faux parliament" lacking any mandate or endorsement from the people, calling its members stooges of those who brought them to power.

The speakers then announced a countrywide protest to be held on the coming Friday, condemning the unconstitutional actions of the government. The protest's main objectives are to demand the release of arrested PTI leaders, including Imran Khan, and to call for free and fair elections.

Here's the corrected and improved version of your text: During the press conference, the KP Chief Minister, who had been absent for several hours, returned to his seat. It was revealed that he had been in a meeting with the establishment, discussing various political and law-and-order issues. However, the full details of these discussions came to light later. In a separate interview, Faisal Vawda added a critical perspective, hinting that while the Chief Minister was able to return this time, if a similar episode were to occur again in the future, he would face severe consequences. The disproportionate reaction of the government and establishment against the PTI has once again elevated the party to a high moral ground, significantly boosting its political capital and public sympathy. This overreaction has had a negative impact on the law and order situation, heightened political tensions, and further eroded Pakistan's international image. It has also scared away foreign traders, investors, and businessmen, worsening the overall perception of the country and further depleting public support for the government and the establishment.

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

Qamar Bashir



Instead of exercising grace and restraint, the government responded to the tall claims, threats, and foul language from the opposition with even worse language. Rana Sanaullah, the government spokesman and de facto spokesperson for the establishment, hurled even more severe accusations and threats, reminiscent of the way Sultan Rahi used to challenge villains in old...

Briefs

NA adopts resolution to form body...

FROM PAGE 01 being allegedly arrested by the Islamabad police and masked men from within the NA's premises. Speaking today during the NA session, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq recalled PTI founder Imran Khan's premiership and lamented the denial of production orders by the then-speaker Asad Qaiser. The PTI government didn't issue production orders for our members during its tenure, Sadiq said. However, he maintained that "two wrongs did not make a right" and remarked: "I do not agree what your [PTI] government's actions. Not issuing production orders was not the right thing to do then [and] it is not the right thing to do now". "I will do what is appropriate, what is required and what is necessary for [upholding] the parliament's respect," he added. The speaker further said that he would try to get to the bottom of what happened. A committee shall be constituted today so that the work commences from the same day, Sadiq remarked while inviting PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar to meet him after the assembly's session is adjourned.

Speaker suspends NA security...

FROM PAGE 01 Akram and others being taken into custody, came under the pretext of alleged violation of the newly enacted Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024 in relation to the party's public rally in Islamabad on Sunday. A number of cases were filed against PTI leaders, which also include the reported attack on police at Chongi No 26 - which turned into a battleground as PTI workers and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) clashed after the former deviated routes leading to Sangjani, venue of public gathering. Cases have been registered at the Noon Village and Sangjani police stations. With the PTI seeking the identity of the "masked men" who allegedly whisked away its lawmakers the government pledging to take action only if the opposition party proved its allegations. Gohar has since been released whereas the former has also been discharged from a case registered at Sangjani police station.

Afghanistan announces..

FROM PAGE 01 the project plastered around the capital of the same name. The pipeline will see around 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas each year extracted from the Galkynsh gas field in the south-east of Turkmenistan. It will be pumped through a 1,800-kilometre (1,120-mile) pipeline traversing Afghanistan, including Herat and Kandahar in the south, before crossing into Balochistan province in Pakistan and ending in Fazilka in Indian Punjab. Pakistan and India will each purchase 42% of the gas deliveries, and Afghanistan 16%, while Kabul will also benefit from lucrative transit fees of around \$500 million per year, according to Afghan media. Work on the Turkmen side began in 2015 and was initially scheduled to start in Afghanistan in 2018, but has been repeatedly delayed.

SCO trade ministers..

FROM PAGE 01 the meeting virtually and will not travel to Islamabad. The ministerial meeting follows a series of preparatory meetings by the Commission of Senior Officials (CSO) of SCO Member States, which concluded in Islamabad on 10th and 11th September 2024. The ministers are set to focus their discussions on enhancing regional trade cooperation, advancing sustainable development, and improving connectivity among SCO nations to promote economic prosperity. The outcomes of this meeting will be reviewed during the Council of Heads of Government meeting, scheduled for 15-16 October 2024 in Islamabad, Pakistan, as the current Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, is using its position to promote economic cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Mixed Martial Arts Federation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Asian Hockey Champions Trophy Pak secure well-deserved victory over Japan by 2-1 India outclass Malaysia 8-1

BEIJING: Pakistan bagged the first victory of the ongoing Asian Hockey Champions Trophy by beating Japan 2-1 at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, China. Nadeem Ahmed scored a goal in the first quarter to give Pakistan the lead but Japan equalised by scoring a goal in the second quarter. In the 10th minute of the second quarter, Sufyan Khan scored a goal to restore Pakistan's lead which was enough to secure a win. Remember, Pakistan's first two games ended in a draw. The Green Shirts' clash against South Korea on Monday ended in a 2-2 draw after they failed to defend their two-goal lead. South Korea took the lead by scoring a goal in the second quarter, which remained intact until the third quarter. Pakistan's team could not score any goals up to the third quarter and was losing by one goal. However, in the fourth quarter, the Pakistan team



made an impressive comeback, with Hanan Shahid scoring two quick goals. But before the match could end, Korea scored another goal to level the game. On Sunday, Pakistan's match against Malaysia also ended in a 2-2 draw. Pakistan will play China on September 12 followed by India on September 14. Pakistan's Asian Champions Trophy Schedule vs Malaysia (2-2) - September 8 vs South Korea (2-2) - September 9 vs Japan (2-1) - September 11 vs China - September 12 vs India - September 14.

Rawalpindi hosts Taekwondo belt promotion test ceremony

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT Rawalpindi: Under the supervision of the Rawalpindi Sports Department, the National Taekwondo Academy, led by President Attaullah Khan and Coach Mehabullah Khan, hosted a successful Taekwondo Belt Promotion Test ceremony at the Shehbaz Sharif Sports Complex in Rawalpindi. District Sports



Squads for Champions One-Day Cup confirmed

White-ball head coach Gary Kirsten will be in Faisalabad to observe the 50-over tournament. The tournament will be played on a single-round basis. Later in the competition, red-ball coach Jason Gillespie will also join Kirsten in Faisalabad. In this high-stakes tournament where every match counts, the top-four sides will progress to the playoffs, culminating in the final on 29 September. Meanwhile, the squads have been reduced to 16 after the preliminary squad of each team was announced. 16-player squads: DOLPHINS: Saud Shakeel (captain), Asif Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Hurraira, Muhammad Akhlaq, Muhammad Riazullah, Noman Ali, Qasim Akram, Sahibzada Farhan, Sameen Gul, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Sufyan Moqim, Umar Amin and Usman Qadir Mentor - Sarfaraz Ahmed LIONS: Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Aamer Yamin, Aamir Jamal, Abdullah

Afghanistan express desire to host Asian events

ACB put forward their wish during the ACC meeting. LAHORE: The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has expressed their desire to host the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) events in the future. ACB put forward their wish during the ACC meeting, chaired by Jay Shah, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting discussed the inclusion of cricket in the 2026 Asian Games. Other topics included ACC tournaments, media rights for 2024-31, and the inclusion of new countries. Discussions also took place regarding the finalisation of the schedule for the upcoming Bangladesh-Afghanistan series. Bangladesh are set to tour Afghanistan for a series in all formats, and has given a positive response regarding the tour. he long-going discussion of foraying cricket in the 2026 Asian Games also made it to the discussion.

2023 ODI World Cup generated economic impact of 1.39\$ bln

WEB DESK DUBAI: The 2023 ODI World Cup in India generated an "economic impact" of USD 1.39 billion (INR 11,637 Crores) with tourism among the biggest beneficiaries, according to a report released by the International Cricket Council on Wednesday. The Economic Impact Assessment conducted by Nielsen for the ICC, claimed that the mega-event held in October-November last year was the biggest-ever ODI World Cup. "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has demonstrated the significant economic power of cricket, generating economic benefit of USD 1.39 billion for India," ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice said in a statement. Australia ended India's unbeaten run in the tournament to win the trophy for a record-extending sixth time. "The impact of tourism across the host cities amounted to USD 861.4 million of revenue generation, through accommodation, travel, transportation and food and beverage because of a massive influx of domestic and foreign tourists attending the matches," read an ICC statement. "The secondary and incremental spends within the economy was a key driver, generating USD 515.7 million, which was approximately 37 per cent of the total impact." However, the ICC did not specify whether the massive figure cited in the report is actual revenue. A record-breaking 1.25 million spectators attended the mega event, of which nearly 75 per cent were attending an ICC 50-over match for the first time ever, the report claimed.

PTI demands 'do more' from speaker

FROM PAGE 01 He urged the NA speaker to launch the FIR against the officials of intelligence agencies instead of police over Sept 9 fiasco in the Parliament House. According to Ayub, the government is in panic as last two public rallies of PTI were very impressive.

Baloch assumes charge...

FROM PAGE 01 She served as Pakistan's Consul General to Chengdu, China (2014-2017); High Commissioner to Malaysia (2019-2023); and Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg (2023-2024). Holding a degree of Masters in History, Amna Baloch joined the Foreign Services of Pakistan in 1991.

IMO SG to make historic...

FROM PAGE 01 Sustainability Exhibition and Conference" and held meetings with Pakistan's leadership and senior government officials. The Secretary General's visit will afford an opportunity for Pakistan and IMO to exchange views on maritime sector and blue economy. As a founding member of IMO, Pakistan is deeply committed to IMO's vision of safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans. Pakistan has served for five terms on the IMO Council and has consistently contributed in upholding the IMO objectives.

Bilawal warns govt of...

FROM PAGE 01 He also asked the lawmakers from the embattled opposition party not to leave their parliamentary committees. Bilawal said that the PTI legislators during the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government exhibited "stubbornness" despite his advice against leaving the national and provincial assemblies. "They are not ready to shake hands," said Bilawal after the PTI founder announced to end all kinds of negotiations. "If they want to go ahead like this, then we are fine with it." Recalling the "Charter of Democracy" between the PML-N and the PPP, Bilawal said: "A specific lobby will never want to see a consensus [among political parties]." He claimed that conspiracies was hatched to sabotage the political consensus "via Iftikhar Chaudhry [then chief justice of Pakistan]".

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Briefs

Sisi calls for European pressure on Israel

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called on Wednesday for European pressure to reach a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Speaking during a joint press conference in Cairo with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Sisi underlined the importance of piling pressure by the European countries to strike a cease-fire deal in Gaza. He also affirmed his country's rejection of Israel's use of hunger as a weapon against Palestinians.

For months, Egypt, Qatar and the US 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 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's refusal to meet Hamas' demands to stop the war.

The Egyptian leader said his talks with his German counterpart also dwelt on a dam project being built by Ethiopia on the Nile River, which Cairo sees an "existential threat" to its water share from the Nile.

Wednesday's visit by the German president is the first to Egypt in 25 years, according to Egyptian media. His visit comes as Israel continues a brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip since an Oct. 7 Hamas attack despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire. More than 41,000 people, mostly women and children, have since been killed and nearly 95,000 others injured, according to local health authorities. An ongoing blockade of the enclave has led to severe shortages of food, clean water and medicine, leaving much of the region in ruins. Israel faces accusations of genocide for its actions in Gaza at the International Court of Justice.—Agencies

Aid group MSF protests Italy migrant policy

ROME: The president of medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) accused Italy's hard-right government Wednesday of seeking to criminalise humanitarian aid to drowning migrants, as a court suspended authorities' blockade of its ship. The organisation's search and rescue vessel, the Geo Barents, has been at port in Salerno, Italy, for two weeks after being placed under administrative detention by Italian authorities, a decision MSF appealed. On Wednesday afternoon, that appeals court suspended the order, allowing the Geo Barents to be "free to return to the Mediterranean", an MSF spokesman confirmed to AFP. Ahead of the decision, MSF's president, surgeon Christos Christou, said Italy's accusations that the group had failed to provide timely information to coordinating authorities during multiple rescues carried out on August 23 were baseless. He accused Italy of creating obstacles to saving migrants in the Mediterranean. "I felt I had to come here (to Salerno) to advocate about how unfair it is to detain the Geo Barents for 60 days while there is so much happening in the Mediterranean," where desperate migrants try to reach Europe from Libya, Christou said in an interview with AFP. Under Italy's law, vessels operated by rescue charities are obliged to only perform one rescue at a time, a system the groups charge is inefficient and puts lives at risk. Christou said that on August 23, having just completed a rescue and following instructions from Italian authorities to head to port, it witnessed another migrant boat in distress and went to help. "People were jumping into the sea. They were there, helpless, without any life vests," Christou said. "We were trying to contact the Libyan coast guard again but there was no response. Looking at the people in the sea, in that moment the only thing you must do is to offer a hand and pull them out of the sea," he said.—APP

Islamabad Marriott Hotel launches Thai food festival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Marriott Hotel is excited to announce the much-anticipated Thai Food Festival, on September 19th, 2024. This festival promises to deliver an authentic Thai culinary experience and cultural showcase that is sure to captivate guests. Speaking at the press conference, the Hotel Manager of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel Mr Hassan Khan expressed his enthusiasm for hosting the festival, stating: "We are thrilled to bring the rich flavors of Thailand to Islamabad through this vibrant festival. Our goal is to provide our guests with an immersive cultural experience, allowing them to savor authentic Thai cuisine while enjoying performances that showcase the beauty of Thai culture. We are honored to have the collaboration of the Royal Thai Embassy and look forward to welcoming everyone to this exciting event."

The Chargé d'Affaires Ms. Kamolwan Sripisoi of the Royal Thai Embassy also shared her thoughts on the festival, highlighting the importance of cultural exchange through food: "Food



has always been a significant part of Thailand's culture, and we are pleased to share our culinary heritage with the people of Islamabad. The Thai Food Festival at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel offers a wonderful

opportunity for locals and expatriates alike to experience the vibrant and diverse flavors of Thailand, while also enjoying traditional Thai performances. We are grateful for the hospitality of the Islamabad

Marriott Hotel in making this festival a reality." In addition to the delectable Thai cuisine prepared by the hotel's expert Thai chef, guests will be treated to live performances by a special Thai cultural

troupe, flown in directly from Thailand to enrich the festival's atmosphere. The menu will feature an array of traditional Thai dishes, from spicy salads to creamy curries, offering a true taste of Thailand.

Guests are encouraged to join this unique culinary journey and experience Thailand's rich food heritage and cultural performances, right here in Islamabad.

Biden 'outraged' by killing of Turkish American activist

Israel must do more to ensure that incidents like this never happen again, says US president

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he is "outraged and deeply saddened" by the killing of a Turkish American activist by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, saying the shooting "is totally unacceptable." The president hailed Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, 26, as "an activist whose idealism led her to travel to the West Bank to peacefully protest the expansion of settlements." He pointed to the findings of a recent Israeli preliminary investigation, which he said indicated Eygi's death "was the result of a tragic error resulting from an unnecessary escalation." "The U.S. government has had full access to Israel's preliminary investigation, and expects



continued access as the investigation continues, so that we can have confidence in the result," Biden said in a statement. "There must be full accountability. And Israel must do more to ensure that incidents like this never happen again,"

he added. Biden has not spoken with the family of Eygi to offer his condolences despite a long history of calling families of bereaved Americans. Ezgi's partner, Hamid Ali, rejected on Tuesday Biden's characterization of her shooting as "an accident," saying Ezgi was "peacefully standing for justice as an international observer and witness to Palestinian suffering." Ali also criticized the lack of communication from the White House, saying: "For four days, we have waited for President Biden to pick up the phone and do the right thing: To call us, offer his condolences, and let us know that he is ordering an independent investigation of the killing of Aysenur." Ali's statement came after Biden

told reporters that "apparently it was an accident - it ricocheted off the ground, and she got hit by accident. I'm working that out now." The Israeli army said Tuesday that it is "highly likely" that Eygi was "indirectly and unintentionally" hit by fire from its forces. Eygi, 26, a dual Turkish-US national, was killed by Israeli forces during a protest Friday against illegal Israeli settlements in the town of Beita, outside of Nablus. Eygi, born in Antalya, Türkiye in 1998, moved to the US with her family when she was an infant and graduated in June from the University of Washington, where she studied psychology and Middle Eastern languages.

Northern Cyprus president calls on UK to review unequal treatment

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President Ersin Tatar has called on the UK to review the country's unequal treatment of Turkish Cypriots. Speaking to British channel GB News on Wednesday, Tatar pointed out that one of the injustices is the lack of direct flights from the UK to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Easing the isolation imposed on them would contribute to peace, Tatar emphasized, adding that the unequal treatment of the Turkish Cypriots needs to be reviewed. Highlighting the benefits of a two-state solution for Cyprus, he said cooperation in many areas such as energy, water, and natural resources will ben-

efit both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. He reminded the UK government that, as one of the guarantor powers of Cyprus, it has responsibilities and obligations to both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. He called for an end to the injustice. The island of Cyprus has been mired in a decades-long dispute between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, despite a series of diplomatic efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement. Ethnic attacks starting in the early 1960s forced Turkish Cypriots to withdraw into enclaves for their safety. In 1974, a Greek Cypriot coup aimed at Greece's annexation of the island led to Türkiye's military intervention as a guarantor power to protect Turkish Cypriots from persecution and violence.

Time has come to explore peace prospects: German chancellor

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Wednesday said that the time has come to look at peaceful ways of ending the war in Ukraine. "And I say again, now is the moment, now is the time when we have to explore what possibilities arise, and it is right when the Ukrainian president says, and I will repeat this again, we need another peace conference, and Russia must then be at the table; that is the task that we now have to tackle," Scholz said in his speech to the parliament in Berlin. "We will do everything we can to ensure that we have the opportunity to have peace, a fair peace that is not a dictated peace, not a surrender and which respects the integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine as an invaded country," he added. On Sunday, Scholz expressed support for inviting Russia to an international peace conference to end the war in Ukraine. He told public broadcaster ZDF that during his recent meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, they discussed the latest developments, as well as prospects for a new peace conference to end the war. "I think this is the moment when we have to discuss how we can get out of this war situation, and achieve peace more quickly than what it seems at the moment," Scholz said. "There will definitely be another peace conference, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and I agree that it must also be the one that would include Russia," the German chancellor added. Meanwhile, Scholz vowed again to crack down hard on illegal migration in his country. "We have now organized such a deportation flight to Afghanistan and I can tell you that we will have more and will continue to do so.—DNA

Iran, Iraq sign 14 cooperation agreements

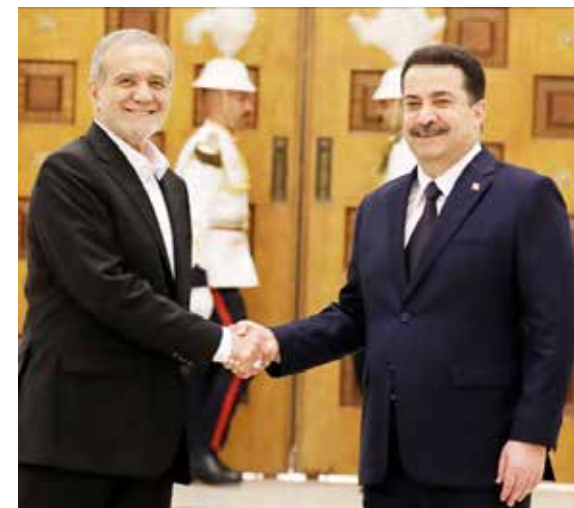
WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Iran and Iraq signed 14 bilateral cooperation agreements on Wednesday during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq, his first foreign trip since taking office last month. Speaking at a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Baghdad following delegation-level talks, Pezeshkian said the agreements "mark the beginning of expanded cooperation" between the two neighboring countries. Pezeshkian arrived in the Iraqi capital on a four-day visit Wednesday morning, accompanied by a high-ranking ministerial delegation, to hold discussions with Iraqi officials on bilateral and

regional issues. The Iranian president said he and the Iraqi prime min-

ister agreed to form a committee of experts and develop strategic, long-term plans that would enhance

cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad. He emphasized the importance of implementing security cooperation agreements between the two nations "to combat terrorism," particularly focusing on the fight against the Daesh/ISIS terror group and efforts to curb cross-border smuggling. Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's commitment to an "independent, sovereign, and secure Iraq," stressing the importance of fostering "sincerity, friendship, and brotherhood" between the two countries. "If we stand together, we can take significant steps. This trip is a great opportunity to share our perspectives and take the next steps within the framework of the signed agreements and understandings," he said. The Iranian leader said special committees would be formed to ensure the proper implementation of the agreements and memorandums of understanding signed during his first official foreign visit.



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importance of implementing security cooperation agreements between the two nations "to combat

French PM promises to form new govt next week

PARIS: French Prime Minister Michel Barnier said on Wednesday that he will name his government next week. President Emmanuel Macron last Thursday chose Barnier, a 73-year-old conservative and former Brexit negotiator, to lead the government after two months of political turmoil following snap elections that saw no party winning an outright majority in parliament. French Prime Minister Michel Barnier said on Wednesday that he will form his new government next week, potentially capping one period of political uncertainty ahead of a likely fight over the 2025 budget. President Emmanuel Macron picked Barnier, a 73-year-old conservative and former Brexit negotiator, to lead the government two months after a snap legislative election called by Macron resulted in a leftist alliance winning the most votes but falling short of an absolute majority. Barnier has said he would defend some of the president's key policies and toughen the government's immigration stance. His government will be tasked with steering reforms and the budget through a hung parliament, amid pressure from the European Commission and bond markets for France to reduce its deficit.—APP

Super Typhoon kills 150 in Vietnam

HANOI: Thousands of people living along the Red River in Vietnam's capital Hanoi were evacuated on Wednesday, as floods and landslides caused by Asia's most powerful storm this year killed at least 152 people in the country's north. Typhoon Yagi also wreaked havoc on many factories and flooded warehouses in coastal export-oriented industrial hubs east of Hanoi, forcing closures and threatening global supply chains. Vietnam's capital of Hanoi evacuated thousands of people living near the swollen Red River as its waters flooded streets days after Typhoon Yagi battered the country's north, killing at least 152 people. Asia's most powerful typhoon this year, Yagi brought gales and heavy rain as it moved westwards after landfall on Saturday, collapsing a bridge this week while scythed through provinces along the Red River, the area's largest. "This is the worst flood I have seen in 30 years," Hanoi resident Tran Le Quyen, 42, told Reuters, adding that she had to move furniture from her flooded home to higher ground. "It was dry yesterday morning. Now the entire street is flooded. We couldn't sleep last night." The typhoon and subsequent landslides and floods have killed 152 people while 140 were missing, the government estimated. Some schools in Hanoi have told students to stay home for the rest of the week, while thousands of residents of low-lying areas have been evacuated, government and state media said.—DNA

Afghanistan says to begin work on huge gas pipeline

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan said Wednesday work would begin on a \$10 billion gas pipeline traversing South Asia as officials joined dignitaries in neighbouring Turkmenistan to celebrate its completion on that side of the border. Progress on the TAPI pipeline - running through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India - has been repeatedly delayed because of security issues in conflict-ravaged Afghanistan. "From today the operations will start on Afghanistan's soil," Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said at the ceremony in comments broadcast by Afghan state television. At the border ceremony in Islim Cheshma in Turkmenistan, officials on both sides, including Afghan Prime Minister Hassan Akhund, hailed the project.—Agencies

Erdogan reaffirms support for Ukraine over Crimea

Erdogan also expressed confidence in further actions to support the Crimean Tatar Turks, saying: "I believe that additional steps will continue to be taken to strengthen the rights of the Crimean Tatar Turks in the upcoming period"

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sent a video message to the 4th Crimea Platform Leaders Summit on Wednesday and reiterated Türkiye's steadfast support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity while emphasizing ongoing support for Crimean Tatar rights. "Our support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence is unwavering. The return of Crimea to Ukraine is a requirement of international law," he said. He highlighted Türkiye's stance on Crimea, stressing that its return to Ukraine aligns with international legal standards, pointing out the enduring

pain experienced by Crimean Tatar Turks, whose suffering has persisted for eight decades. Erdoğan also expressed confidence in further actions to support the Crimean Tatar Turks, saying: "I believe that additional steps will continue to be taken to strengthen the rights of the Crimean Tatar Turks in the upcoming period." The Turkish president thanked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and leader of the Crimean Tatars Mustafa Abdulcemil Kirimoglu for their roles in organizing the summit, which marks the 80th anniversary of the Crimean Tatar expulsion. He also stressed that Türkiye has never recognized the annexation of Crimea, which

has exacerbated the suffering of the region's people. The president underscored the rights of Crimean Tatar Turks to live "freely, securely, and peacefully in their own homeland." The president further noted the positive development of Nariman Celal's release from captivity and expressed hope for the freedom of all Crimean Tatar compatriots, including Hasan Ahmedov and Aziz Ahmedov. The three men were among those arrested by Russian forces in 2021 on charges of sabotaging an oil pipeline. Activists say all three were forced into a false confession and their arrests were politically motivated. Zelenskyy has earlier described the arrests as an attempt to crack down on Crime-

an dissent against illegal annexation. Concluding his address, Erdoğan conveyed Ankara's broader aspirations for the resolution of the conflict, noting: "Our sincere wish is for the war to end with a fair and lasting peace based on Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence." Lastly, he expressed hope that the platform's efforts will contribute to international peace initiatives in the region and commemorate those who have passed away during the 80th anniversary of the exile. Russian forces entered the Crimean Peninsula in February 2014, with Russian President Vladimir Putin formally dividing the region into two separate federal subjects of the Russian Fed-

eration the following month. Since then, Crimean Tatars have continued their struggle for Ukraine's territorial integrity against Russian occupation. Crimea's ethnic Tatars have faced persecution since Russia's 2014 takeover of the peninsula, a situation Türkiye has decried. Türkiye and the U.S., as well as the U.N. General Assembly, view the annexation as illegal. Türkiye is among the few countries maintaining good ties both with Kyiv and Moscow after the conflict broke out between Russia and Ukraine. It strives for balanced diplomacy but persists on the Crimea issue as a country with historical ties to residents of the peninsula.

Briefs

Pakistan's mpox tally reaches six

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Another case of the mpox, also known as monkeypox, was reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), taking the total tally of the virus to six in Pakistan, provincial Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah said on Wednesday. This is the sixth case reported in the country this year and the fifth since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the recent outbreak of the disease as a public health emergency of international concern after the new variant of the virus was identified in August. The latest patient is a resident of Lower Dir area of KP, according to the National Institute of Health Islamabad. He was isolated after the screening at the Peshawar Airport and after a medical test, he was confirmed as a carrier of the mpox virus, it added. The KP health minister said: "A public health lab confirmed the presence of the mpox virus in the patient's [blood] samples." "The patient has been quarantined at his home in the Lower Dir area," the minister said, adding that he reached Islamabad from a Gulf country on September 7 and then stayed at a hotel in Peshawar. Shah further added: "Next day the patient went to a private clinic for [some] treatment and was then transferred to Khyber Teaching Hospital."

Ukraine's victory 'depends' on US: Zelensky

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky said Wednesday that Ukraine's plan to defeat Russia depended on Washington's support, speaking as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Kyiv. "As for the plan for victory... it depends mostly on the support of the United States. And other partners," Zelensky said in a press conference. His remarks come just under two months before US elections that could be challenging for Ukraine if Donald Trump is back in the White House. Trump aides have suggested that if he wins, he would leverage aid to force Kyiv into territorial concessions to Russia to end the war. Zelensky has said he will outline a plan to end the war by November. He has argued that a surprise incursion by Ukrainian troops into Russia's Kursk region allows Kyiv to enter potential negotiations from a position of strength. Ukraine held a peace summit in June in Switzerland with leaders and top officials from more than 90 countries but did not invite Russia. Zelensky has since said Moscow should be included in the next gathering. The Kremlin has ruled out talks since the assault in Kursk, and has demanded Ukraine cede swathes of territory for a ceasefire. - Agencies

After Imran Khan, PM and Hamza seek relief under NAB law tweaks

Father-son duo seeks transfer of Ramazan Sugar Mills reference to anti-graft body

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: After incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan sought relief under amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 recently restored by the Supreme Court, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz demanded retransfer of Ramazan Sugar Mills reference to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The apex court, on September 6, accepted intra-court appeals filed against the September 15, 2023, majority judgement striking down the amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance. Approving the intra-court appeals filed by the federal and provincial governments, the top court remarked Imran could not prove that NAB amendments were unconstitutional. During today's hearing, the father-son duo's counsel argued that the reference against their clients is 'inadmissible' after the Supreme Court's verdict and that the "accountability court lacks jurisdiction to proceed in the case". In response to the argument, the judge asked the lawyers to file an application for the transfer of sugar mills reference to the anti-graft body. The court added the hearing on the application will be conducted on October 1.



Meanwhile, it also accepted Hamza Shehbaz's plea for exemption from personal appearance. On February 18, 2019, the anti-graft crusader filed a reference against Hamza and Shehbaz, alleging that the former Punjab chief minister had misused his authority to get a 10km sludge carrier constructed in district Chiniot to facilitate Ramzan Sugar Mills, owned by his sons.



The anti-corruption bureau had alleged that the 'project' had inflicted a loss of Rs213 million to the national exchequer. The reference was reopened in November 2023 after the amendments - introduced by the coalition government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) - were struck down. Earlier, Imran also sought acquittal from the £190 million case under the NAB

amendments - which he had challenged. The deposed prime minister's lawyer told the accountability court in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail that the case was no longer valid after the verdict as all the cabinet decisions are protected in NAB amendments. Under the amendments, the NAB was restricted from investigating into any graft case worth less than Rs500 million besides curtailing the accountability body's powers to probe into a fraud case unless its victims are more than 100. It also modified the NAB law to keep an accused in its custody for a maximum of 14 days which was later exceeded to 30 days. Moreover, the amendments barred the anti-corruption watchdog from taking action on federal, provincial or local tax-related matters. Additionally, regulatory bodies operating in the country were removed from the NAB purview under the amendments besides transferring the pending interrogations, investigations, and trials against individuals or financial matters to relevant institutions and courts. The changes to the law included a reduction of the four-year term of the NAB chairman and the bureau's prosecutor general to three years. Moreover, it also set a three-year term for the judges of the accountability courts and that courts be bound to decide a case within one year.

SHC to hear petition against Dar's appointment

Position of deputy prime minister was not mentioned in the Constitution, argued Petitioner's lawyer

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has accepted an urgent petition challenging the appointment of Federal Minister Ishaq Dar as deputy prime minister. Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court presided over the hearing and requested responses from both parties within two weeks. The petitioner's lawyer, Tariq Mansoor Advocate, argued that the position of deputy prime minister was not mentioned in the Constitution under Articles 90 and 91. He said that these articles only recognized the Prime Minister and Cabinet members. He claimed that the deputy prime minister was neither accountable to the Senate nor Parliament. The Chief Justice noted that similar appointments, such as that of Pervaiz Elahi, had occurred previously and asked if this case was any different. The petitioner's lawyer responded that Elahi's appointment in 2013 was accompanied by a notification specifying that the deputy prime minister would not exercise the prime minister's powers.

PHC grants transit bail to Omar Ayub, Asad Qaiser

Court also grants bail to PTI's Zartaj Gul and Faisal Amin till October 10

COURT REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Omar Ayub, Asad Qaiser, Faisal Amin and Zartaj Gul's petitions seeking transit bail in connection with cases filed against them regarding the former ruling party's power show in Islamabad September 8. Justice Shakeel Ahmed of the PHC heard the pleas and granted them bail till October 10. In their petition, Omar and Qaiser said cases were filed against them and other party leaders by the Islamabad administration for ending the rally two hours after the scheduled time. The petitioners said that they want to appear in the relevant courts and demanded for transit bail in this regard. The plea also said that they fear their arrest. Omar, while speaking to media persons today, ques-

tioned the powers behind masked people entering the Parliament to arrest lawmakers. "This does not work in a democracy. Ali Amin Gandapur is the chief executive of the province and he represents 40 million people," said the PTI leader. The development comes after the Islamabad police launched a crackdown on PTI leaders including Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and arrested them outside the Parliament House for allegedly violating the newly enacted public gathering law during the rally. The Islamabad police said PTI leaders Omar and Zartaj would also be taken into custody. Heavy contingents of police were deployed outside the parliament while all entry and exit routes to the Red Zone were also closed from D-Chowk, Nadra Chowk, Serena, and Marriott, except for Margala Road. However, Ali Muhammad Khan was not taken into custody by the police when he departed from the parliament.

Punjab govt ends electricity relief for Islamabad consumers

Consumers will not receive any relief in electricity bills for month of Sept, says IESCO

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has discontinued the Rs14 per unit relief for the electricity consumers of the federal capital announced in August for two months, the Islamabad Electricity Supply Company (IESCO) said in a statement on Wednesday. The power utility said the consumers will not receive any relief in electricity bills for the month of September. The electricity company also notified that orders have been issued for a change in billing software. The subsidy worth Rs45 billion was announced on August 16 by the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif for Punjab and the federal capital for the months of August and September. The subsidy was announced for consumers using 201 to 500 units per month. However, the Punjab power consumers

would get relief in the next month's power bills. The Punjab government was met with criticism by the opposing leaders of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who at the time stated that the subsidy was a futile and short-term attempt to provide relief to the masses reeling under sky-high power tariffs. PPP leader Murtaza Wahab, speaking on the Geo News programme Naya Pakistan stated that every government is responsible for providing long-term relief instead of short-lived measures. The mayor of Karachi, whose party had formed a coalition government with the PML-N in the Centre, also invited the federal government to work on long-term plans to provide relief to the masses. Adviser on Finance to the Chief Minister of KP Muzammil Aslam was another political figure who disagreed with the subsidy. During the same program on Geo News, he stated that it would be tantamount to wasting public resources in the name of relief. He added that Sindh and KP were generating electricity at a low cost saying that the cost of per unit electricity would be Rs8 through the new power projects in KP whereas the Punjab government is generating electricity at the cost of Rs75 per unit via imported furnace.

20 bln was deposited in funds Govt demands release of dams funds from SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has demanded release of dams funds from SC. A four-member bench headed by CJF Qazi Faez Isa heard the Diامر-Bhasha and Mohmand dams funds case today. Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman informed the court that a miscellaneous application had been filed and dams funds must be handed over to the federal government and Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). Amir Rehman said that the funds were deposited in the account opened in the State Bank in the supervision of the SC.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets China's Vice Minister Ling Ji to discuss boosting trade, Gwadar Port, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and participation in China International Import Exhibition. - DNA

Kamala Harris and Trump ride debate buzz into election sprint

Both candidates declared victory after coming face to face for the first time on the biggest night so far of the campaign - although any boost or dent in support is unlikely to show up in polling for several days

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump set out Wednesday to ride the momentum from their high-stakes White House debate into the two-month final sprint to November as they sought to mop up undecided voters and shake up a presidential race that has ground to a dead heat. The Democratic vice president and her Republican rival remain neck-and-neck in both nationwide and swing state polling, days before first ballots are mailed out and early in-person voting begins in several key states. Both candidates declared victory after coming face to face for the first time

on the biggest night so far of the campaign - although any boost or dent in support is unlikely to show up in polling for several days. The ABC News-hosted debate in Philadelphia was punctuated by tense exchanges, although Harris focused on policy while Trump's answers were littered with wild falsehoods and were often about his past grievances. "She focused on the major thematic contrasts between her and Trump.... For his part, Trump didn't hurt himself with his loyal followers but he likely didn't make any inroads with undecided voters either," said PR expert Andrew Koneschusky, a former press secretary to Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer. Republican strategist Liam Donovan said while Harris scored points on Trump, the Republican "largely whiffed" in his efforts to tie his opponent to President Joe Biden's more unpopular policies, instead accusing her of Marxism "and going on angry tirades about migrants run amok." "Don't expect this debate to have an immediate impact in the polls, but it will surely boost morale at a time when Democrats are getting anxious," he said. After replacing Biden as the candidate in July, Harris rode a wave of enthusiasm through the Democratic convention that hugely boosted her popularity and gave her record fundraising numbers. And with Biden gone, 78-year-old Trump finds himself as the candidate facing questions about his advanced age and mental acuity, with renewed focus on his eccentric and often rambling speeches. But Harris, 59, had seen her polling momentum begin to stall ahead of the debate.



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Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com