



Islamabad POST

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Starmer becomes first UK PM in 15 years to address trade unions

Detailed News On Page-07

PTI making attempts to initiate talks

Detailed News On Page-08



Captain Harry Kane set for 100th cap

Detailed News On Page-06



16 militants killed

Security forces repel cross-border attack by Afghan Taliban

Pakistan Army's response causes significant losses on the Afghan side, including the destruction of two Taliban tanks

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Afghan Taliban forces launched an unprovoked attack on Pakistani military posts along the Afghan border, resulting in a fierce exchange of fire. Security sources informed Express News that the Afghan Taliban initiated unprovoked aggression along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, which was met with a strong response. From the morning of September 7, the Afghan Taliban began unprovoked firing with heavy weapons at Pakistani checkpoints from the Afghan area of Plosin, near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. According to security sources, the unprovoked firing from the Afghan side continued until the evening of September 8 and 9. The Pakistan Army responded with a strong retaliatory fire, inflicting heavy losses on the Afghan Taliban. So far, 16 Afghan Taliban fighters have been killed, and 27 have been wounded, while two of their tanks have also been destroyed. Security sources have stated that any form of unprovoked aggression along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border will be met with a decisive response. This is not the first instance of Afghan troops firing on Pakistani security forces stationed at the border. Pakistan had raised its concerns with Afghanistan after the attacks. Islamabad has also called on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to stop their support for terrorist groups that use Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan.

LHC reinstates Lt Gen Munir as Nadra chairman

Court's one-member bench had declared Nadra head's appointment null and void last week

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has reinstated Lieutenant General Munir Afsar as the chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra). Hearing the intra-court appeal filed by the federal government, LHC's two-member bench comprising Justices Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal and Ahmad Nadeem Arshad suspended the high court's September 6 verdict wherein it had declared Lt Gen Afsar's appointment null and void. The decision, announced by Justice Asim Hafeez, came after a citizen named Ashba Kamran challenged the appointment of Afsar as the chairman in a petition, which was approved by the LHC. Kamran's petition argued that the caretaker government approved the appointment of a serving army officer by amending the Nadra Ordinance. The caretaker government cannot interfere in permanent policy matters, the plea added. During the hearing today, the government's lawyer apprised the court that Nadra chairman's appointment notification was challenged in the plea.

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GOODBYE MONAL



ISLAMABAD: One of Pakistan's most iconic landmarks, the Monal Restaurant, has officially closed its doors following a Supreme Court ruling. The closure marks a bittersweet moment for both the restaurant's staff and management, who must now say goodbye to an establishment that has been part of their lives for many years. Equally, food lovers, local residents, and foreign tourists are left disappointed, not only losing a popular dining destination but also a must-visit tourist spot. Though farewells are never easy, especially to places rich with memories, such changes are part of the evolving landscape in this Land of the Pure. — Text by Ansar Bhatti, Photo by Online

PIA privatisation process to conclude by Oct

Khawaja Asif confirmed the finalisation of PIA's privatisation, citing heavy debt as a key reason for the decision

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Aviation, Khawaja Asif, has announced that the privatisation process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will be completed by the end of October. Speaking during a National Assembly session, Asif emphasised the urgent need for privatisation, citing the airline's heavy debt burden of Rs. 800 billion.

Indian minister to skip Pak visit

This could serve as template for India to participate in other SCO meetings, including October's heads of state summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Indian trade minister will virtually attend the upcoming meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by Pakistan, officials familiar with the development said here on Tuesday. The SCO trade ministers meeting will be held in Islamabad on Thursday, according to officials.

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'No talks with Establishment' Imran Khan defends K-P CM, urges PTI to remove 'cowards'

PTI's founding leader reiterates claims of betrayal by the establishment, state negotiations are now off the table

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding leader Imran Khan has defended Ali Amin Gandapur and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's controversial remarks that have landed him in hot water recently. Talking about the K-P CM's incendiary remarks, Khan claimed that Gandapur had merely expressed the 'nation's sentiments.' Party members who had apologised for Gandapur's remarks are weak cowards, they should not remain in the PTI, Imran Khan said. Imran Khan also stated that the establishment has deceived them, and he is closing the doors to negotiations with all parties from today. Speaking informally with journalists at Adiala Jail, he said that from today he is instructing his party not to engage in any discussions with the establishment. The establishment has deceived us, and from today, I am closing the doors to negotiations with the establishment and any other party. He mentioned that he had allowed six party leaders to negotiate with the establishment, but he has never stopped anyone from engaging in dialogue. The date and NOC for the September 8 rally were provided by the establishment, and whether we get permission or not, we will hold the rally in Lahore on September 21. Responding to allegations from Faisal Vawda regarding involvement in the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif, the former PTI leader denied any wrongdoing and called for an open trial to reveal the truth. "Everyone knows who Faisal Vawda is speaking for," Imran Khan alleged that Faisal Vawda used to follow him around, trying to arrange a meeting with General Faisal Naseer.

NA speaker demands immediate release of PTI lawmakers

"You cannot arrest anyone from Parliament House or Parliament Lodges," says Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A day after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers were chased within the Parliament's premises, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday reprimanded the Islamabad Inspector General (IG) of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, demanding their immediate release. "You cannot arrest anyone from the Parliament House or lodges. These parliamentarians should be released immediately," said the speaker. Sadiq's directive comes in the wake of the arrests of PTI lawmakers followed by a fiery speech delivered by the party's leader Ali Muhammad Khan on the floor of the lower house today. Sadiq added that he is "very saddened" by this incident and also watched the footage of PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat's arrest. "What way was it to arrest a parliamentarian?" the speaker questioned IG Rizvi. The speaker maintained he won't remain silent on arrests of lawmakers and will action. "Whatever happened in the Parliament will have to be protested. I have ordered all the videos," he said, summoning

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Briefs

PTA clarifies VPNs not being blocked

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) on Tuesday dispelled rumours and clarified that virtual private networks (VPNs) in the country were not being blocked. VPNs are widely used around the world to access content that may be inaccessible or blocked for internet users in their home country. They are also used by users to maintain privacy. The use of VPNs by local internet users witnessed a significant increase in 2024. Most people have been using them to access X, formerly Twitter, which has been blocked in the country since February 19. A report by Top10VPN, an independent VPN review website.

Lawlessness reigns supreme in Islamabad

Saif vowed that "the PTI workers will continue their struggle until PTI founder is released"

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that lawlessness continued to rule in hallowed halls of the Parliament in Islamabad. In a statement issued in the first half of the day, Saif blamed the government of being utterly undemocratic and behaving like a dictatorship regime. "This fake government can go to any length of fascism but it will never be able to divert the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers' attention from their mission to fight against the tyranny," he added.

Condemns PTI for 'hate' politics PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

Sept 10 to be remembered as black day in history

Demands imposition of Article 6 on those who ordered the arrest

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Firebrand Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan on Tuesday termed the arrest of PTI leaders as "May 9 of Democracy in Pakistan" which, he said, would be remembered as a black day in the history of the country. "Our leaders were arrested from inside parliament, living quarters and mosque. We are fighting the case of democracy as we are living in Pakistan, not in Israel," he lamented. He lambasted the

Continued on Page 06

Arrest warrant issued for Judge Humayun Dilawar

Humayun Dilawar convicted the 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician for corrupt practices related to the state gift depository — allegations which he denies

SHAMIM SHAHID

BANNU: A Judicial Magistrate in Bannu on Tuesday issued arrest warrants for Special Judge of CentraHI Islamabad Humayun Dilawar, who convicted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in Toshakana reference, in a land grabbing case. The arrest warrants were also issued for the judge's father, brother and a registrar in the same case. In a short order Magistrate Mahboob ul Hassan wrote that the investigation officer submitted an application, along with complete record, for issuance of warrant against the accused. "Therefore, by acceptance of instant application, warrant of arrest against the accused Taj Mali Khan, Dilawar Khan, Sadiq and Humayun Dilawar be issued in accordance with law with directions to the ACE [Anti-Corruption Establishment] to arrest them," stated the order. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) ACE has been directed to arrest the accused, including the registrar, and present them in the court.

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SEPTEMBER 2024

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DC Haripur enforces 90-day ban on e-cigarettes and vaping

HARIPUR: Deputy Commissioner Haripur Shoaib Abbas Tuesday has imposed a ban on e-cigarettes, vapes, and related nicotine products in Haripur district. The ban, effective from September 6, 2024, will remain in place for 90 days under Section 144. The district administration has imposed the restrictions including the E-cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine products are banned from use in public transport and public spaces. Promotion of e-cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine through media platforms and the display of related pamphlets on walls and vehicles is forbidden. The sale of these products is prohibited for individuals under 21 years of age. E-cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine cannot be stored or sold within a 100-meter radius of schools, colleges, hospitals, and public parks. Violators of these regulations will face strict legal consequences. The public is urged to comply with the new rules and support the authorities in maintaining community health.—APP

Jealousy; brother kills younger in Swabi

PESHAWAR: The police in Swabi district on Tuesday arrested a 17-year-old boy who killed his 12-year-old younger brother in a jealousy. Topi police said the body of a 12-year-old boy, identified as Muhammad Kashif, was found in bushes near his home in the Zarobi area. The body had strangulation marks on the neck and the killer had left no clues to avert tracing. Police said DPO Swabi while taking a strong notice of the incident directed DSP Topi, Hassan Khan and SHO Haroon Khan to trace the killer at all cost and bring him before the court of law. SHO Haroon Khan, Additional SHO Saidul Amin Khan and their team thoroughly inspected the crime scene and CCTV footage of the area and arrested the elder brother of the deceased named Anas, son of Fazal Rohan on suspension. During investigation Anas confessed to killing his younger brother, saying that his parents used to love Kashif more than him and he was jealous of this situation.—APP

Anti-encroachment drive conducted under Awami Agenda

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, The district administration Tank has launched an operation against encroachments under the provincial government's program 'Awami Agenda.' According to the district administration, the anti-encroachment drive was conducted in the Wazir Abad area where shopkeepers had been asked to remove encroachments on their own within three days, but they failed to comply with prior notices. As a result, the additional deputy commissioner general and assistant commissioner led the drive along with the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) staff and police and removed all illegal encroachments from the Wazir Abad road.—APP

Agriculture and IT are the mainstay of Pakistan's economy: Aurangzeb

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed the initiative and highlighted the role of agriculture in Pakistan's economy, particularly its contribution to the GDP of the country

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that agriculture and information technology are the backbone of our economy and the real levers of economic growth of the country. He made these comments during a call on him by Mr. Kevin Piccoli, Deputy Director in the Office of International Affairs at the US Commodity Future Trading Commission (CFTC). Chairman SECP Mr. Akif Saeed and senior officials from the Finance Division and officials from US Embassy in Pakistan also attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the role of agricultural commod-

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori awarded Ethiopia's highest Honor

During the event, which featured an Ethiopian cultural show, Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker praised the Governor's role in fostering public ties between the two nations

NAZIR SIYAL/DNA

KARACHI In a prestigious ceremony held at Governor House, Governor Sindh H.E. Kamran Khan Tessori was awarded Ethiopia's highest honor, the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award, by Ethiopian Ambassador and Special Envoy H.E. Dr. Jamal Beker. The award was presented in recognition of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's exceptional contributions to strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker for the honor. He emphasized that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia have reached new heights of strength and cooperation. During the event, which featured an Ethiopian cultural show, Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker praised the Governor's role in fostering public ties between the two nations. He highlighted Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's pivotal efforts in promoting bilateral relations, including his significant role



in facilitating the launch of Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker said efforts of the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad and support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, business community, civil society and media had helped strengthen the people-to-people relations between the two countries. He said the start of the Ethiopian Airlines

had laid the strong foundation for people-to-people relations between the two countries, who had strengthened the bilateral ties by enhancing the bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in diverse areas. The Ambassador said today Ethiopian cultural night was a testament to the growing people-to-people relations between the two countries. He also highlighted the diverse

culture and rich heritage of Ethiopia which is called as a land of origins, a land of Bilal Habeshi and King Nejashei and the land of coffee. H.E. Zubair Motiwala, TDAP Chief Executive, also acknowledged the growing bilateral relations between the two countries, but stressed the need to exploit the immense business and trade potential between the two countries. H.E.



Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of Ethiopia in Karachi, lauded the Ambassador of Ethiopia for his exemplary efforts to promote bilateral relations between the two countries. The Honorary Consul said Ethiopia and Pakistan shared striking cultural similarities which we had witnessed today in this Ethiopian cultural night. A large number of individuals from different

walks of life including officials of the Government of Pakistan, Parliamentarians, diplomatic corps, business community, civil society and media attended the cultural night which featured dance and singing performances of the Ethiopian singers and dancers. Prominent figures included H.E. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the Trade and Development Authority of Paki-

stan (TDAP), H.E. Khalid Tawab, Ex-Minister of Sindh for Commerce and Industry, H.E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Karachi. The cultural night was hosted by the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad in collaboration with the Sindh Governor House, Pakistan Ethiopia Business Council and Bukhari Groups.

Polio vaccination camping target over 0.8 children in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Polio eradication campaign will be conducted in the provincial capital, targeting 865,755 children for polio vaccination. The primary goal of this one week long campaign is to make Peshawar polio-free and to ensure that our children are protected from this crippling disease. Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Sarmad Saleem Akram, visited various health centers and

areas across Peshawar to monitor the campaign and raise awareness among the public. He met with parents to emphasize the importance of polio vaccination and informed them that vaccinating their children is not only crucial for their safety but also for the health and future of the entire community. Deputy Commissioner further stated that eradicating polio is a shared

responsibility, and parental cooperation is essential for the success of this effort. He urged parents to actively participate in the campaign and ensure their children receive the polio drops to contribute to the eradication of the disease. During the campaign, strict adherence to all safety measures will be maintained, with vaccination teams reaching every street

and neighborhood to administer the polio drops. The Deputy Commissioner praised the dedication and hard work of the polio teams, acknowledging that their efforts are bringing us closer to a polio-free future. The public is strongly encouraged to cooperate fully with the polio campaign and play their role in safeguarding their children from the disease.—APP

PFUJ President condemns arrest of Mirpur Journalist

MIRPUR-AJK, Sep 10 (APP): Muhammad Afzal Butt, the President of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has strongly condemned the arrest of journalist Zaffar Mughal in Mirpur. Speaking via video link from Islamabad during a protest rally organized by the Kashmir Press Club, Afzal Butt described the actions against Mughal as retaliatory and expressed deep concern among the journalist community in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Afzal Butt demanded the immediate release of Mughal within 24 hours and called for the Prime Minister to establish a high-level inquiry committee to investigate the

circumstances surrounding the arrest. He warned that if Mughal is not released, journalists across the country would be compelled to take to the streets in protest. The PFUJ President outlined a planned protest program, starting with the Islamabad National Press Club and extending to journalists nationwide if the situation does not improve. He emphasized that journalists would not tolerate such intimidation tactics and would stand together to defend the rights of their colleagues in Mirpur. During the protest meeting, President Syed Abid Hussain Shah and General Secretary Raja Sohrab Khan also voiced their support for Mughal's

release. Shah condemned the police's aggressive raid on Mughal's home, describing it as an unacceptable act of retaliation against journalists. He urged the Prime Minister of AJK to take immediate notice of the situation, asserting that the journalistic community knows how to protect their rights through peaceful demonstrations if necessary. The protest which began at Chowk Shaheedan and concluded at the Kashmir Press Club, saw a unified turnout from the local journalist community, signaling their solidarity and determination to address the growing concerns regarding journalist safety and freedom of expression.—APP

16,000 farmers declared eligible for Kisan Card

DNA

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindh said 16,000 farmers were declared eligible for Kisan Card in Multan so far, however, the registration was heading forward smoothly. He said this while talking to the media during distribution of Kisan Card here

on Tuesday. The deputy commissioner said that 700 farmers were issued Kisan Card in the district. He added that farmers were being contacted for issuance of the cards. Responding to a query about benefit of the Kisan Card, the deputy commissioner remarked that the farmers would get loan assistance of Rs 29,000 per acre. The farmers

can avail loans against maximum five acres. To another question, he maintained that the card holders could also visit designated vendors for purchasing inputs. He hoped that the initiative would surely help promote the agriculture sector on sustainable basis. It would facilitate the small land holders. About Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme, he remarked

that the registration process was in progress. He also mentioned that applications of 500 citizens had been processed under the CM Punjab revolutionary programme. About preparation for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him), the deputy commissioner remarked that preparation were progress to mark Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) with religious fervor.

KPITB, BoK sign MoU on service level agreement regarding E-Stamping

PESHAWAR: Board of Revenue, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB), and Bank of Khyber (BoK) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Service Level Agreement regarding E-Stamping. The signing ceremony to this effect was held here at the office of Senior Member Board of Revenue in which Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Revenue and Estate Nazir Ahmed Abbasi, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah, Member Board of Revenue (Admin) Aamir Latif, Managing Director Bank of Khyber Sher Muhammad, Managing Director Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board Akif Khan, and other senior officials were present, said a press release issued here Tuesday. Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister of Revenue and Estate Nazir Ahmad Abbasi said that E-Stamping is a very important initiative of the Board of Revenue. Stamp duty is an important source of revenue generation and E-Stamping will also provide maximum facilities to the people of the province. Regarding E-Stamping, the first MoU was signed in September 2022, but now instead of the National Bank of Pakistan and the Punjab IT Board, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) and the Bank of Khyber (BoK) have extended it to all the districts of the province. The Minister said that different rates have been allocated regarding stamp duty which would be very helpful in doubling the revenue of the province. He also said that this was a big initiative of the government for the convenience of the people, good administration, and good governance. He said that the manifesto of the provincial government was to provide maximum relief to the people, for which the provincial cabinet was working day and night under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Khan Gandapur.—DNA

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that both agriculture and IT in Pakistan were largely driven by domestic factors

and a healthy and consistent growth in these sectors was a positive sign and a

stabilizing factor in view of their export potential for national economy.

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

PM's aide Romina launches excess floodwater management initiative

She further that addressing this concern of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Recharge Pakistan programme is being launched by the climate change and environmental coordination in collaboration with different national and international stakeholders to building country's flood resilience through nature-based adaptation for integrated flood risk management and conservation of excess flood water so as to utilise it for meeting growing water needs of domestic, industrial and agriculture sectors

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that Pakistan regularly experiences seasonal flooding, especially during the monsoon season, which poses significant risks to human life, property, agriculture, and infrastructure. But, managing this excess water can help overcome the risks and prove a boon to the country's socio-economic development, she added. Addressing a launching ceremony of the 'Recharge Pakistan Programme' as chief guest here Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that the present government is concerned over wastage of excess floodwaters during summer monsoon season, which gush down the country's river system untapped for want of for various reasons, particularly inadequate storage facilities in the country. She further that addressing this concern of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Recharge Pakistan programme is being launched by the climate change

and environmental coordination in collaboration with different national and international stakeholders to building country's flood resilience through nature-based adaptation for integrated flood risk management and conservation of excess flood water so as to utilise it for meeting growing water needs of domestic, industrial and agriculture sectors. Managing floodwater through the Recharge Pakistan Programme would be a crucial step for several reasons, as it would help protect lives, property, the environment, infrastructure from the devastating impacts of flooding and help recharge the groundwater level, she contended. The PM's climate aide said, "Recharge Pakistan is basically an unique collaborative initiative as it would be implemented by different national and international development partners in close collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh and Balochistan governments. Explaining about the interventions to be carried out under the Recharge Pakistan

Programme, Romina Khurshid Alam said that among other key flood risk management measures, wetlands would be restored for storing excess floodwater and green infrastructure interventions would be conducted in the Indus Basin for sustaining the exacerbating risk of floods and retain excess floodwater for irrigating agricultural and community lands by slowing run-off. This would significantly help cope with the country's flood-caused climate vulnerability through nature-based adaptation interventions and integrated flood risk management, she added. Over the last century, the country's average temperature has spiked by 0.57 C and the average annual precipitation has increased by 25 per cent, aggravating the flood risk, particularly during summer months, she highlighted. As a result, there has been a substantial increase in the occurrence of devastating floods, landslides and drought events, which are surpassing the capacity of the country's existing water infrastructure to stave off any massive economic damages and loss of human life, Alam added.

The Indus River is experiencing floods with increasing intensity and frequency. The communities along the Indus, including upstream watersheds and downstream wetlands and floodplains, are disproportionately vulnerable as they depend on the river for food and water as well as their agriculture, livestock and fishing-based livelihoods. "However, the Recharge Pakistan would be a major flood risk prevention initiative and boost the country's water storage capacity and improve groundwater resources to meet galloping population, agricultural and industrial needs," the PM's climate aide highlighted. More importantly, by means of an integrated flood risk management approach, involving the restoration and rehabilitation of water flow paths connected to wetlands and irrigation water supply channels and the development of recharge basins and retention areas, the project would directly benefit an estimated 680,000 people and indirectly support more than seven million people, most of them in flood-prone rural and marginalized communities, PM's climate

aide said. On the occasion, Senior US Embassy official said that the US government, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and CocaCola were jointly collaborating for the programme which was the first ever large-scale project by the partners and government of Pakistan. The initiative was bringing a paradigm shift from concrete-grey to green infrastructure like earthen water ponds and water bodies (wetlands) that would rehabilitate watersheds with a unique approach from working in the upstream to slow down water flow in the watershed areas to conserve water and generate green jobs that would help support 680,000 individuals directly by securing their lands, jobs and livelihoods and some 700,000 people would benefit after the implementation of the project. The project sites included watershed area Ramak in D.I. Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chakar Lehir in Sindh-Balochistan and Manchar Lake and combinedly all these would help 14,000 hectares forested areas restoration, conserve GHG emissions

that would help meet NDCs targets of Pakistan, he said. "In mitigation, so much money is consumed but adaptation is a slow and longterm approach to handle climate change. This is the unique initiative where government, international climate finance and private sector will yolk together," the US official said. Recharge Pakistan was a \$77.8 million value five-year project involving US government, WWF, Coca Cola and Green Climate Fund (GCF) which comprised of \$1.8 million from WWF, \$5million from Coca Cola and additional \$5 million from US Agency for International Development (USAID) and \$66 million from the GCF which was part of the overall \$5 billion US funding to GCF. "Its groundwater recharging initiative and the people should consider it like a battery that needs to be recharged to ensure survival of human life that uses a science-based approach to capture the rainwater, filter it and return back into aquifer which can be used for agriculture, wetland restoration and other purposes," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding over the meeting of Treasury & Opposition Members in National Assembly at Parliament House.—DNA

AIOU hosts workshop on business model canvas

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University's (AIOU) 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 celebrations.—DNA

Climate change poses a significant threat

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a symposium on the effects of climate change on human life stated that a collective reaction and concerted effort were urgently needed to safeguard vulnerable communities in disputed territories who were threatened by climate change. The seminar, arranged by Kashmir Institute of International Relations in collaboration with International Action for peace and sustainable development on the sidelines of the 57th session of the UNHRC, was attended by international specialists, human rights advocates, diplomats, and academics from all around the world, including Mr. Talha Tufail Bhatti, environmentalist, Mr. Abdul Rehman Research officer CISSAJK, Ms. Eisha Tariq Research intern at KIIR, Syed Faiz Naqashbandi, Mrs Shamim Shwal APHC leaders and Dr Shugafat Ashraf. While the seminar was moderated by Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan president Internal Action for peace and sustainable development, received a press release from Geneva. Describing climate change as an issue of global concern, the speakers stated that climate change posed a major threat to those living in conflict-affected areas, where communities suffer a slew of challenges exacerbated by political conflicts, violence, and increased militarization. "Kashmir is one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change," they stated. They went on to say that while the protracted conflict poses a serious risk to people's lives, health, food, and way of life throughout the region, it has also severely damaged important sectors of the economy due to fluctuating temperatures, melting glaciers, and constant rains that cause flash floods. "Kashmir has witnessed significant water shortages as a result of the rising temperature", they said. "The region's agriculture sector has been adversely affected by the water scarcity," adding that in addition to affecting the food supply and availability to high-quality food, it has also had an impact on crop productivity. They said, "Kashmir, like other parts of the world, experienced a significant decrease in groundwater". The speakers said that wetlands in Kashmir which host hundreds of species of birds year-round, have been impacted by climate change. Citing to a news report on the impacts of climate change in the Himalayan region, they said that an important dimension that was being deeply neglected amidst intense conflict was that the UN-designated disputed territory is a host to the world's top snow peaks, glaciers, and riverine system on which the lives and livelihoods of millions of people depend. They observed that "India's deployment of over 900,000 heavily armed troops in the disputed territory is a major destabilizer for the local ecology." They stated that the military presence on the rapidly melting Siachin Glacier and even on the LoC were amongst one of the main factors upsetting the ecology. In order to address the climate catastrophe, the speakers said that along with coordinated efforts, a strong and a more comprehensive strategy were required to address these issues effectively —DNA

Govt. decides to accelerate transfer of PWD projects to provinces

"This decision is expected to ensure timely completion of development projects, ultimately benefiting the people," the minister remarked

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday decided to expedite the process of transferring development projects to provinces after the Public Works Department (PWD) was abolished a couple of months back. The decision was made during a meeting chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, attended by the Secretary of Planning and senior provincial officials which

resolved to transfer PS-DP-funded projects to provincial governments without delay, a news release said. The minister said only the projects were being transferred while funding under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) would continue. He directed provinces to submit names of ministries overseeing projects slated for transfer within a week. He said the ongoing PWD projects in Islamabad would also be handed over

the capital Development Authority (CDA) and relevant ministries, clarifying that projects were not terminated but rather re-assigned to different institutions. The minister said Balochistan had already completed the necessary formalities, and other provinces must provide complete required details in a week. He outlined that the committee's objective was to resolve legal hurdles and ensure timely completion of projects.

To facilitate swift transfers of projects to provinces, he said Deputy Commissioners at the district level would serve as focal persons. They would, along with PWD and concerned agencies, randomize contracts within four to five days and obtain no-objection certificates from contractors. "This decision is expected to ensure timely completion of development projects, ultimately benefiting the people," the minister remarked.

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Briefs

Parents urged to support polio workers in eradicating polio

ISLAMABAD: Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, focal person of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the anti-polio campaign on Tuesday urged the parents of children under-five to cooperate with vaccination teams to get rid of the crippling disease. Talking to a private news channel, she said that the campaign was launched yesterday on a mass scale. The campaign will be done across 115 districts, aiming to vaccinate 33 million children against this debilitating disease, she added. Under the anti-polio drive around 286,000 polio workers will go door-to-door to administer polio drops to children, she further added. She said that 17 cases of polio have been reported in 2024 so far, of which 12 are from Balochistan and 5 from Sindh. The Prime Minister gave strict instructions to run the polio drive like an emergency program, she added. Together with provincial governments, district administrations, and strategic partners, an integrated strategy has been developed to reach each and every child of the country, she added.—APP

Women employment quota be enforced

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH), on Tuesday, stressed the critical necessity of raising awareness regarding the effective implementation of employment of women for empowering the women. Talking to APP, an official of FOSPAH underscored the multitude of challenges encountered by women, particularly concerning women employment. "We believe that through improving access, usage and outcomes of financial services that women can realize economic empowerment" said official. She said that quota for women in public service employment for the posts in BS-1 to 15 has been enhanced from 5% percent to 15 percent. She further added that the Provincial Ombudsman has assured to appoint 33% women as Consultants in his Office as soon as existing consultants complete their tenure. Amendments in the relevant law to provide 33% female consultants are also in process. All women contractual employees have been allowed to avail one additional chance of transfer to the place of residence of spouse in case of marriage, by notification of S&GAD. She further added that Quotas have had a massive impact globally on the number of women in jobs, explaining the variation in women's representation in the country's economic empowerment, she further added. She added that media should play their role to tackle gender-based oppression in this regard, she added. Around the world, quota systems in government jobs are employed as a tool to enhance the representation of historically marginalised groups.—APP

Workers' remittances increase by 44%

ISLAMABAD: The overseas workers' remittances witnessed an increase of 44 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2024-25, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) latest data said. The inflow of US\$ 5,936 billion was recorded during July-August 2024-25 as compared to the inflow of US \$4.123 billion during July-August 2023-24, showing growth of 44 per cent. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, the worker's remittance went up by 40.5 per cent in August 2024 to US\$2,942 billion from US\$2,094 billion during the same month last year. Remittances inflows during August 2024 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$713.1 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$538.4 million), the United Kingdom (\$474.8 million) and the United States of America (\$322.4 million).—APP

Govt committed to root out terrorism: Interior Minister

Mohsin Naqvi meets President Awami National Party

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan. During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were discussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that terrorism is condemnable in all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against the terrorism. He stated that Awami National Party has bravely fought against terrorism. He also paid homage to the martyrs of Awami National Party, who embraced martyrdom in the war against terrorism. He stressed that it's time to rise above political and parochial differences and to purge Pakistan of the terrorist groups. He is also reiterated the commitment to eliminate terrorists with the support of public. President Awami National Party Aimal Wali Khan assured ANP's full support for counter-terrorism and said that terrorists have martyred innocent people.



ICCI chief demands interest rate cut

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has called on the government and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to reduce the interest rate to single digit in the upcoming review. He emphasized that high interest rate has increased the cost of doing business, reduced investment and discouraged entrepreneurship thus, making it essential to lower the rate to stimulate economic activity, ultimately leading to job creation and economic growth.

Talking to media persons, Bakhtawari expressed disappointment with the recent policy rate cuts, calling them "too little, too late." He noted that the business community had expected more substantial cuts, rather than the modest in June and July. He stressed that reduction is crucial to provide relief to businesses facing economic challenges due to high power and gas charges, which have led to diminished economic activity, reduced exports, lower foreign direct investment and increased unemployment.

The ICCI President highlighted the urgent need for relief, particularly for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and cottage industries that are struggling to survive. He argued that a reduction in interest rates would increase demand and supply, driving economic recovery and growth. He emphasized that SMEs represent the backbone of the economy and need favourable financial conditions to thrive. Reducing interest rates could enable these

businesses to grow and contribute significantly to the national economy. Furthermore, a reduction in interest rates would also lower inflation, providing relief to the country's impoverished population. He went on to say that at the moment neither the local nor the foreign investors can think of making investment which is ultimately inflicting severe economic hard to the country and to come out of the situation the initiative would be a step in the right direction.—APP

Govt. committed to promote Islamic banking in country

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Ali Perwaiz Malik Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is committed to promote Islamic banking in the country. In response to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he said that the government plans to launch new Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion under Islamic Finance this month. He explained that two schemes under the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were launched in July 2023, involving Rs 70 billion in instruments, though these schemes were later suspended. The minister highlighted that Islamic financial instruments are asset-backed, with certificates issued against tangible assets. In 2023, certificates worth Rs 80 billion were issued against assets such as the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Islamabad Metro. He said that the government has identified new assets valued at Rs 1,000 billion and has secured the necessary approvals to proceed. Consequently, Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion will be issued this month. The minister also reported a 30 percent increase in Islamic banking accounts and announced plans to issue new certificates based on the recently identified assets.—APP

Workshop on strategic marketing for digital transformation kicks off

ISLAMABAD: A four-day international training workshop on Strategic Marketing for Digital Transformation was inaugurated here on Tuesday with an objective to equip marketing professionals with effective digital marketing strategies to drive business growth. The workshop, which was inaugurated by Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production Muhammad Asad Islam Mahni, has been jointly organized by the National Productivity Organization (NPO) and the Asian Productivity Organization (APO). It is pertinent to mention here that the workshop brings together 28 participants from APO member countries Pakistan, Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Turkey to share expertise and foster collaboration in addressing emerging marketing challenges. The primary aim of the workshop is to empower marketing professionals to craft and implement effective digital marketing strategies that drive business growth. Speaking on the occasion, Asad Islam Mahni expressed his gratitude for both the APO and NPO for addressing

this timely and critical topic and commended their significant contributions to the development of the Asia-Pacific region. He emphasized that it was time to renew our commitment to achieving APO's vision of "Inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific. He underscored the importance of APO-NPO collaboration in developing solutions to address the evolving marketing challenges in the digital transformation era, adding the workshop marks a significant step forward in bolstering the region's digital transformation capabilities. On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) NPO Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry extended his appreciation to the Additional Secretary, the APO Program Officer, and the distinguished international resource speakers. He also welcomed the international and local participants, noting that Pakistan is already on the path to digital transformation. He further briefed the audience on the NPO's key initiatives, including the National Productivity Master Plan and the Productivity Measurement System.—DNA

IRSA releases 203,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 203,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 215,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 120,700 cusecs and 120,200 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1228.30 feet, which was 180.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 26,400 cusecs and 15,200 cusecs respectively.—APP

APHC sounds alarm over plight of Kashmiri detainees

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir has issued a stark warning over the deteriorating condition of Kashmiri political leaders and youth languishing in Indian jails, demanding their immediate and unconditional release. According to Kashmir Media Service, in a scathing statement, APHC Spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas condemned the Indian government's relentless crackdown on Kashmiri voices, stressing that the use of brute force will never quell the Kashmiris' unwavering resolve for self-determination. Minhas emphasized that the Hurriyat Conference remains committed to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, but the Indian government's aggressive militarization and silencing of political dissent have pushed the territory to the brink of catastrophe. The APHC has urgently appealed to the United Nations to intervene and secure the release of all illegally detained Kashmiris, while also calling on the international community to hold India accountable for its egregious human rights violations in the occupied territory. The world can no longer turn a blind eye to India's atrocities in Kashmir.—APP

Ministry organizes 49th Seerat-un-Nabi conference

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is organizing the 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal highlighting the significance of this blessed month in the Islamic calendar. Through this annual feature, the ministry promotes religious harmony, tolerance, brotherhood, equality, respect for humanity, non-violence, unity, reconciliation, and dialogue in light of the current situation in the country. Exchanging his views with this national news agency, Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed that the conference comprises two main segments: the National Seerat and Naat Book Competition Awards Ceremony and the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference. He said the ministry invited

regional, and international languages (Arabic and English) for the National Seerat and Naat Book Competition Awards encouraging the participants to submit books and essays on Seerat and Naat within the stipulated timeframe. Umar said the competition for the year 2024 was announced in January, and each selected book and essay was evaluated by a panel of at least three experts, who are PhD-level professors and specialists in their fields. The reports of these experts were then reviewed by an apex committee, which determines the winners, he said adding that a total of 164 books were submitted for this year's competition, with 30 individuals selected for awards. Additionally, he said 118 Seerat essays were received, and 33 individuals were awarded. A total of 63 individuals were recognized for their contributions this year, he

maintained. Umar said the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference is held annually to promote and disseminate the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He said renowned religious scholars from Pakistan and the Islamic world participate in this conference, which serves as a platform for dialogue, mutual understanding, and the reduction of differences among scholars. Umar mentioned that the theme selected for this year's conference is "The State's Educational System in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him)." Recognizing the significance of the conference, he said the ministry publishes and distributes the proceedings and high-quality papers presented on this topic to institutions and libraries free of charge. These papers are also uploaded to the ministry's website, he added. Umar said as per schedule, the Seer-

at-un-Nabi Conference will be held on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, 1446 AH and the prime minister will be the chief guest at the opening session, while the president will preside over the second session. He said distinguished scholars and religious leaders from across the country will address the conference on the theme. Additionally, he said awards will be distributed to the winners of the National Seerat and Naat competitions. As part of the Seerat-un-Nabi celebrations, Umar said the ministry has also directed all federal and provincial ministries, departments, and educational institutions to organize events, gatherings, and programmes related to Seerat-un-Nabi throughout the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. These efforts will guide society on various aspects of the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), he concluded.

13 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 13 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs, and weapons with ammunition from their possession. An ICT police public relations officer said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IG) police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. Following these directions, the Secretariat police team arrested three accused namely Fida Hussain, Azhar Abbasi and Khalid Mehmood and recovered one 30 bore pistol and 1545 gram heroin from their possession, he said. Likewise, the Industrial Area police team arrested two accused namely Amir and Nasir Abbas and recovered one 30 bore pistol and one iron punch from their possession, he added. He said the Koral police team arrested an accused namely Abrar Ansar and recovered one rifle with ammunition from his possession. Moreover, the Shahzad Town police team arrested an accused namely Ishtiaq Ahmed and recovered murder tool knife from his possession, he added. He said the Bani Gala police team arrested two accused namely Zahid Gul and Ahmed Gul and recovered one 30 bore pistol and 667 gram hashish from his possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway, he said. He said during the crackdown against proclaimed offenders and absconders, the Islamabad Police teams arrested four absconders and target offenders from various areas of the city. DIG Islamabad directed the police officers to further intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard". Citizens are urged to cooperate with police and report any suspicious activity or information through the emergency helpline "Pucal-15" or via the "ICT-15" app for immediate assistance.



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Can world tackle climate crisis

I WROTE a speculative article in 2000 on what I called "the political trilemma of the world economy". My claim was that advanced forms of globalisation, the nation-state and mass politics could not coexist. Societies would eventually settle on, at most, two out of three. I suggested that it would be the nation-state that would give way in the long run, but not without a struggle. In the short term, the more likely consequence was that governments would seek to reassert national sovereignty to address the distributive and governance challenges posed by globalisation. To my surprise, the trilemma proved to have long legs. My book, *The Globalisation Paradox*, published a decade later, developed the idea further. The concept of the trilemma has become a handy way to understand the backlash against hyper-globalisation, Britain's exit from the European Union, the rise of the far-right and the future of democracy in the European Union, among other issues. Lately, another trilemma has preoccupied me. This one is the disturbing possibility that it may be impossible simultaneously to combat climate change, boost the middle class in advanced economies and reduce global poverty. Under current policy trajectories, any combination of two goals appears to come at the expense of the third. During the early post-war decades, policies in the developed and developing world alike emphasised economic growth and domestic social stability. The advanced economies built extensive welfare states but also progressively opened their markets to poorer countries' exports, so long as the distributional and social consequences were manageable. The result was inclusive growth in the rich countries, as well as significant poverty reduction in those developing countries that were pursuing the right policies. Successful as this strategy was, it sidestepped the risks of climate change. Over time, the consequences of economic growth powered by fossil fuels have become increasingly difficult to ignore. Cop28 prepares temperature check on climate at Dubai meeting The post-war Keynesian-social democratic bargain in the advanced economies was further undone by the internal contradictions generated by my original trilemma. As hyper-globalisation replaced the earlier Bretton Woods model, labour markets in the advanced economies experienced greater disruption, undermining the middle class and democracy itself. Both of these developments required new strategies. In the United States, President Joe Biden's administration has tackled these new realities head-on. It has broken new ground by promoting substantial investment in renewables and green industries to combat climate change. It deliberately aims to restore the middle class by promoting labour's bargaining power, reshoring manufacturing and creating jobs in regions that were badly hit by imports from China.



The war against reality

WOODY Allen once said: "I hate reality but it's still the best place to get a good steak." What is "reality"? In Taoism, the Tao – that cannot be fully grasped by human understanding – is "eternally nameless" and should be distinguished from the countless named things that are considered to be its "manifestations" – the reality of life before its descriptions of it. In Buddhism, reality can be said to be viewed as a form of "projection", resulting from the fruition of karmic seeds. According to Plato's metaphorical allegory of the cave, human beings can only perceive reality as shadows of the real things they see interacting on a wall. With the advent of neoliberalism, these same practices are not only used for products and services but also in creating political narratives... And whoever ends up "owning the narrative" – a new trendy trope – is "the winner"... a winner who has attained a position of omnipotence. In recent years, "narratives" have become more sophisticated, devious... and compulsorily spurious, especially in the service of the Hegemon, to uphold its political, economic, and especially cultural imperialism – through Hollywood, mainstream media, social media, AI, the monopolised music industry, freedom forums, academic grants (for indoctrination), red-carpet festivals, along with the postmodernist and recent wokist ideologies intent on destroying traditional mores, classical culture and meaning. And precisely because these developments have been devoted to an exceptional, "chosen" nation – whose actions, mindset, and values should and must be emulated all over the world – its propaganda skills and PR campaigns excelled... and soon gave birth to a new formula: "Soft Power" (this term being coined American political scientist Joseph Nye of Harvard University in the mid 1980s, but which first came into widespread usage in 1990). Certainly any state, just as an organisation, will always seek to hone its diplomacy skills and promote its image to the outside world in the best manner possible... And to this aim it will have its own press and public relations departments... the "Empire of Lies". The United States has always presented itself – ever since its genocidal beginnings – as a pure and virtuous entity, bestowing freedom and democracy to all who enter its hallowed halls. It is the world's champion of narratives, which it has constructed and used to celebrate itself over the centuries. Over the years, these narratives have been selling: "The American Dream" "democracy", "freedom", "human rights", "Western values", "a rules-based order", "philanthropy", "individual opportunities", "from rags to riches", "instantaneous stardom"... It is then not a surprise that a concept such as "soft power" was born out of this mindset and the specific American economic system of financial capitalism. Exploiting its virtuous façade, the American brand "soft power" has become the crowning glory of American foreign policy – a "crafty marketing ploy" to seduce and deceive its prey into... acquiescence. Indeed it is the Hegemon's most insidious and malevolent weapon as it has infected minds everywhere.

Why Pakistan has not realized Quaid-e-Azam's dream?

Muhammad Faiq Shah



The education system in Pakistan is another area where we have failed to align with Jinnah's vision. Quaid-e-Azam placed great emphasis on education, seeing it as the key to progress and development. He wanted Pakistan to become a knowledge-based society where people would be empowered through learning and innovation. Yet, Pakistan's education system is deeply flawed, with significant disparities in access and quality across different regions and socio-economic classes

MORE than seven decades have passed since Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the historic movement for Pakistan's creation, securing a homeland for Muslims of the Sub Continent through his extraordinary vision, determination, and leadership. His vision was not simply about carving a piece of land; it was about creating a state that would embody the values of justice, equality, rule of law, and inclusivity. Quaid-e-Azam's dream was for Pakistan to become a beacon of hope and progress for its citizens, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or social background. He envisioned a nation where Muslims could practice their faith freely, without fear of persecution, but also where people of other religions could live peacefully and equally as citizens of the state. However, as we reflect on the state of Pakistan today, it is evident that we have fallen short of Quaid-e-Azam's vision in several critical ways. While the initial years after independence were marked by efforts to build the foundations of a democratic and inclusive state, the journey since then has been fraught with challenges that have taken Pakistan far from the ideals Jinnah had in mind. The question remains: why have we not succeeded in fully realizing the vision of Quaid-e-Azam? One of the key reasons is the persistent political instability that has plagued Pakistan since its inception. Quaid-e-Azam firmly believed in democracy and the importance of representative governance. He saw democracy as the bedrock of a modern state, where the will of the people would guide the government. However, Pakistan has been repeatedly disrupted by military coups, authoritarian rule, and weak democratic institutions. The frequent interruptions to democratic processes have hindered the country's ability to establish a stable political framework, which is essential for the implementation of long-term policies in line with Jinnah's vision. The lack of political continuity has also contributed to a culture of political patronage and corruption, further distancing Pakistan from the principles of justice and accountability that Quaid-e-Azam advocated. Economic disparity is another significant reason for the divergence from Quaid-e-Azam's vision. Quaid-e-Azam was deeply concerned about the economic

well-being of the people and the need to build a strong economy that could sustain the new state. He understood that economic independence was crucial for political sovereignty and social stability. Yet, Pakistan today faces significant economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, inflation, and a widening gap between the rich and the poor. Economic mismanagement, corruption, and a failure to invest in human development have resulted in a society where a small elite enjoys privileges while the majority of the population struggles to meet their basic needs. This disparity has not only led to social unrest but has also undermined the sense of national unity that Jinnah emphasized. Another critical factor contributing to the failure to implement Quaid-e-Azam's vision is the rise of religious extremism and intolerance in the country. Jinnah's vision for Pakistan was inclusive and pluralistic. In his famous speech on August 11, 1947, he clearly stated that Pakistan was to be a state where people of all religions would have the freedom to practice their faith without interference from the state. However, over the years, Pakistan has witnessed a growing trend of religious intolerance and sectarian violence. Minority communities, who were once integral to the social fabric of the country, now often face persecution and discrimination. This shift away from the principles of religious freedom and tolerance that Quaid-e-Azam espoused has not only tarnished Pakistan's image internationally but has also sown divisions within the country. The education system in Pakistan is another area where we have failed to align with Jinnah's vision. Quaid-e-Azam placed great emphasis on education, seeing it as the key to progress and development. He wanted Pakistan to become a knowledge-based society where people would be empowered through learning and innovation. Yet, Pakistan's education system is deeply flawed, with significant disparities in access and quality across different regions and socio-economic classes. The lack of focus on education has hindered Pakistan's ability to compete globally and has perpetuated cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. Furthermore, the curriculum often promotes narrow interpretations of history and religion, contributing to the rise of extremist

ideologies instead of fostering a culture of critical thinking and intellectual growth. Corruption has also played a significant role in preventing the realization of Jinnah's vision. Quaid-e-Azam was a man of integrity, and he wanted Pakistan to be a state where public officials served the people with honesty and dedication. Unfortunately, corruption has become deeply entrenched in our society. This has not only eroded public trust in the government but has also diverted resources away from essential public services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The culture of corruption has created a system where merit is often disregarded, and personal gain takes precedence over the national interest, further derailing the country from Jinnah's ideals. Moreover, the rule of law—a cornerstone of Jinnah's vision—has often been undermined in Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam was a staunch believer in justice and the supremacy of law. He wanted Pakistan to be a state where every citizen, regardless of their social or political standing, would be subject to the law and where justice would be served without fear or favor. However, the judicial system in Pakistan allegedly has often been influenced by interference or applying doctrine of necessity and has failed to deliver timely and impartial justice. This has contributed to a sense of lawlessness and impunity, further weakening the social contract between the state and its citizens. In conclusion, while Pakistan was founded on the principles laid down by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we have struggled to fully implement his vision. Political instability, economic inequality, religious intolerance, corruption, a flawed education system, and the erosion of the rule of law are some of the key factors that have contributed to this failure. However, it is not too late to course correct. By reaffirming our commitment to the values of democracy, justice, equality, and tolerance, we can begin to steer Pakistan back towards the path that Quaid-e-Azam envisioned. It is the responsibility of both the leadership and the people to work together to build a Pakistan that truly reflects the ideals of its founding father. Only then can we honor the sacrifices made for the creation of this nation and ensure a prosperous future for generations to come.

Rising anti-Muslim violence. A terrorism trial won't fix it

Hannan Hussain

According to the Council of Europe Commission against Racism, there has been a surge in anti-Muslim incidents since last October, and Muslims wearing religious symbols were at times associated with terrorism and extremism. France is home to six million Muslims, or about 7 to 10 percent of its population. Many officials have long seen the community to be a threat to France's "secular values." The country already has legislation that stigmatises Islam in the form of hijab bans, expanding surveillance of mosques, and tightening state control over community organisations. As France congratulates itself on a successful Paris 2024 Olympic Games...

MORE than a dozen people associated with the French far-right group Action des Forces Opérationnelles (AFO) will soon appear in a terrorism trial for committing suspected acts of anti-Muslim violence, including a conspiracy to kill 200 Muslim preachers. The proceedings, which have been ordered but not scheduled, will focus on attacks planned between 2017 and 2018, and come as the country witnesses a dramatic rise in anti-Muslim violence since Israel's Gaza onslaught began in October 2023. But despite being a small step in the right direction, the long overdue trial struggles to strike at the heart of a much larger problem: state tolerance for rising anti-Muslim violence in France. The country's treatment of anti-Muslim groups and the way it approaches Muslim rights and liberties are like night and day. The AFO trial simply brings those double standards out into the open, and exposes the government's role in contributing to anti-Muslim violence over the past several months. According to prosecutors, the AFO was planning to kill 200 Muslim preachers and launch grenade attacks against Muslim community members. It planned to engage long-range shooters in a terrorist attack against a mosque in Clichy-la-Garenne, Paris and use female members to poison halal foods in supermarkets. France sets trial for far-right group planning attacks against Muslims. "Action des Forces Opérationnelles" planned to "kill 200 radicalized imams", poison halal food, throw grenades into 'Arab cars' and deploy remote-controlled IEDs. #Terrorism #France <https://t.co/4wUj1pU2Y2> – TrapWire Inc. (@trapwire) August 28, 2024 However, because the plans were not actually carried out, the criminal acts were reclassified as "misdemeanours," laying the groundwork for a shorter prison sentence – if any. This decision seems risky, particularly at such a politically volatile moment. The sudden reclassification could have an empowering effect on other anti-Muslim groups that are set to face trial. Consider the "Barjols." Its members have conflated terrorism with Islam in the past and expressed a desire to burn Muslims. Group members are now set to enter trial next month, and if the AFO's attempt at anti-Muslim massacres can be explained away as misdemeanours, the Barjols could avoid accountability through a similar precedent. A threatened French Muslim community doesn't deserve these contradictions. Given that anti-Muslim violence has risen sharply over the past year, the state owes a concrete assurance that the freedoms and liberties of Muslims are well protected from far-right violence. In November, the French Muslim Council said it

had received dozens of letters containing threats or insults, and that 14 mosques were vandalised. In London, islamophobic offences increased by 140%, according to the Metropolitan police. For instance, the French Muslim Council received 42 threatening letters, and over a dozen mosques have been vandalised since Israel began its war on Gaza in October. A Franco-Turkish cultural association in Loiret was targeted last year, alongside the Turkish-Islamic Union of Religious Affairs (DITIB) in southern France. According to the Council of Europe Commission against Racism, there has been a surge in anti-Muslim incidents since last October, and Muslims wearing religious symbols were at times associated with terrorism and extremism. France is home to six million Muslims, or about 7 to 10 percent of its population. Many officials have long seen the community to be a threat to France's "secular values." The country already has legislation that stigmatises Islam in the form of hijab bans, expanding surveillance of mosques, and tightening state control over community organisations. As France congratulates itself on a successful Paris 2024 Olympic Games, French Muslims say they have been unfairly targeted in efforts to clear and secure the city. Ahead of the 2024 Olympics in Paris, critics say France used the need to maintain security as a cover to crack down on its Muslim constituents. Under French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin, a system of surveillance and obstruction was used to conduct violent raids on Muslims and make it possible for French authorities to devise interventions against "any target" listed on the country's controversial radicalisation and terrorism watchlist (FSPRT). In a recent meeting with German Federal Minister Nancy Faeser, Darmanin also pledged a closer front with Berlin to counter "Islamist extremism," while leader of the far-right National Rally party, Jordan Bardella, has promised to pass a draft law which would help shut down mosques and deport preachers that the state deems as "radicals." It's important to note that taking actions against Muslims deemed to be a threat doesn't require incriminating evidence. In stark contrast, far-right aggressors in the AFO trial could end up with lenient sentences. Suspects will be tried for "terrorist criminal conspiracy" against Muslims, but in a court that doesn't even have the mandate to rule on terrorism. This means they face shorter sentences, and will not be tried before a jury. Thus, protections for Muslims seem unlikely when the state itself has impossibly higher standards for this community compared to the rest of its population. It would be a mistake to view the AFO trial as an actual attempt to bring perpetrators of violence to justice. In fact,

it offers a glimpse of a system that is still reluctant to call it terrorism when far-right groups plot mass killings, but not when French Muslims exercise their right to peaceful protest. Since fundamental Muslim freedoms figure low on the government agenda, far-right accountability remains a pipedream. Look to the country's divisive discourse on Israel's war against Gaza. Paris has increasingly normalised arbitrary arrests of Muslims who demonstrate solidarity with Palestinians, targeting their right to peaceful assembly and portraying arrests as a counterterrorism imperative. More importantly, the legislation used to impose such unlawful restrictions – France's "anti-terror" law – serves far-right interests. That's because prominent voices from the hard-right, led by Marine Le Pen, see it as a way to further expand disproportionate restrictions on Muslims and reinforce their narrative of a so-called "Islamist threat." This is important because far-right activism against Muslims has been resonating with other violent groups, such as the Organisation of Social Armies. As "terrorism" remains disproportionately focused around Muslim liberties, French liberals and the hard right are making it difficult to call out far-right violence for what it really is. In 2023, anti-Muslim incidents in France jumped by 57%, with 828 incidents recorded across the nation over the course of the year, according to the annual report of the Collecting Against Islamophobia in Europe (CAIE). Interestingly, AFO's desire to poison halal products in supermarkets is also rooted in the wider, state-sponsored persecution of Muslim women in France. After all, the suspects' goal was to wear niqab costumes to facilitate the poisonings. This symbolises anti-Muslim aggression and severe contempt towards women's right to choose what they wear. Whether through a hijab ban in state schools, unlawful restrictions on full-face veils, or a ban on the abaya, the French government has helped perpetuate a glaring bias against Muslim women. These discriminatory measures have prompted the far-right to increase Islamophobic rhetoric, and intensified racial profiling of Muslim women. Unless the drivers of social exclusion and religious discrimination are addressed, French Muslims could continue to face far-right extremism. Thus understood, AFO's anti-Muslim plotting took place in a society that holds severe intolerance towards French Muslims. It is still unclear why France would take up a case from 2018, but show limited regard for surging anti-Muslim violence in recent months. Ultimately, it will take more than just a terrorism trial for France to change the harsh reality on ground and create a climate of equality for its six million Muslims.

Briefs

LHC reinstates
Lt Gen Munir
as Nadra
chairman

FROM PAGE 01
However, he added, the petitioner's request was limited only to the extent of the notification issued by the caretaker government. The applicant never challenged the new rule, he said, while requesting the court to annul the single-member bench's last week's verdict. At this, the LHC suspended Justice Hafeez's ruling and restored Lt Gen Afsar's appointment as Nadra head. It is to be noted that the interim federal cabinet had approved the rules for the appointment of the Nadra chairman, which opened doors to the servicemen to be deputed as the head of the public institution. The News reported on August 30 last year, citing sources. The publication said that the summary received by the Cabinet Division from the Ministry of Interior, in which filling the extraordinary position of Nadra chairman on a deputation or secondment basis had been clearly approved for inclusion in the new rules.

Arrest
warrant
issued...

FROM PAGE 01
Sessions Judge (ADJ) at that time, convicted the 70-year-old cricket-turned-politician for corrupt practices related to the state gift depository - allegations which he denies. Rejecting Khan's petition seeking inadmissibility of the case, Judge Dilawar sentenced the former prime minister to three years imprisonment. "Charges of misdeclaration of assets have been proven against PTI chairman," he mentioned in his judgment. He then handed Khan three years in jail along with a fine of Rs100,000, while issuing an arrest warrant for his immediate arrest. However, later the Islamabad High Court (IHC) suspended Khan's sentence in the Toshakhana case.

PTI
introduced
tradition...

FROM PAGE 01
any detained opposition member used to come from the Prime Minister's House instead of the custodian of this august House. It was the PTI's founder on whose directives the production orders were issued, he added. He said Faryal Talpur was sent to the jail from hospital on the 'Chand Raat' (eve of Eid) only to give mental torture to her brother. Similarly, Maryam Nawaz who had secured bail in a case, was again arrested in the presence of her father, he said. "Why they (the PTI members) are crying today?" he questioned. "As you sow so shall you reap. In the past, they (PTI) were advised to refrain from doing politics of hatred and revenge, but did not heed to the advice and now they are now facing consequences." Taking a jibe at the PTI, the minister said the Information Ministry was thinking to produce a film - titled "Main Lahore Nahi Jaon Ga" (I will not go to Lahore). He pointed out that the PTI had not carried out even a single quality project like Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology and Danish Schools etc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its over 12-year tenure. They (PTI leader) used the government funds for their personal promotion, he added.

NA speaker
demands
immediate...

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the leadership of all political parties in the chamber. Sadiq stressed that the matter is to be looked into with seriousness. "I will file a case against those involved in yesterday's incident." In the next move, the speaker immediately summoned IG Islamabad, DIG operations and senior superintendent of police (SSP) operations.

PAK vs ENG: England confirm
squad for Pakistan Test series

England will play three Tests in October which are part of the World Test Championship

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: England have announced a 17-member squad for the three-match Test series against Pakistan in October. Durham's Brydon Carse and Essex's Jordan Cox are the only uncapped players while spinners Rehan Ahmed and Jack Leach return to the Test set-up. Eight players from the squad - Rehan Ahmed, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, and Ben Stokes - return to Pakistan following the 3-0 Test series victory in 2022. Rehan, who made his Test debut in Karachi during the last Pakistan tour in December 2022, will be aiming to add to his four Test caps. Following his Test debut at The Oval this week, Leicestershire seamer Josh Hull is included in the squad for his first senior tour with England.



Kent opener Crawley returns to the West Indies series in July. The 26-year-old, who fractured his right little finger at Edgbaston in July, is making significant

progress in his recovery to earn selection. Stokes is also included as he continues his recovery from a hamstring tear that kept him out of the recent Test series victory against Sri Lanka.

England Men's Test Squad:
Ben Stokes, Durham, Captain; Rehan Ahmed, Leicestershire; Gus Atkinson, Surrey; Shoaib Bashir, Somerset; Harry Brook, Yorkshire; Brydon Carse, Durham; Jordan Cox, Essex; Zak Crawley, Kent; Ben Duckett, Nottinghamshire; Josh Hull, Leicestershire; Jack Leach, Somerset; Ollie Pope, Surrey; Matthew Potts, Durham; Joe Root, Yorkshire; Jamie Smith, Surrey; Olly Stone, Nottinghamshire; Chris Woakes, Warwickshire. It must be noted that PCB might announce revamped schedule for the series in the coming days. Multan and Rawalpindi will host these games as confirmed by Mohsin Naqvi last week.

Sri Lanka surpass England in
WTC standings with win at Oval

The Lions secure spot at number five while England stand at six in WTC standings

FOREIGN DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka surpassed England in the World Test Championship after defeating Three Lions in the final match of the three-match series on Monday. England bagged the series win, but the Lankans ended up leading

the match at The Oval as well as in the standings of the WTC. Additionally, in seven Tests, Sri Lanka have won three matches in this cycle, giving them a points percentage of 42.857% whereas England, with eight wins in 16 Test matches, are mere decimal points below with 42.187%. In the first innings, England scored

325 runs within 69.1 overs and restricted the Dhananjaya de Silva's side to 263 within 61.2 overs.

Sri Lanka's comeback on day three saw the hosts reduced to 69/5, which soon turned to 82/7. Jamie Smith, scoring 67 off 50 deliveries, led England to score 156 within 34 overs. However, the tables turned when Sri Lanka smashed number of fours with Pathum Nissanka on strike, racing away at a rate of more than six runs per over. Additionally, Nissanka, 26, brought up his half-century off 42 balls. Shoaib Bashir's outstanding catch early on day four broke the threatening Mendis-Nissanka stand with the former dismissed for a 37-ball 39, but Nissanka continued to score runs, finishing on an unbeaten 127 to guide the team home alongside Angelo Mathews. In regard to this, Nissanka's 127 is the highest score by a Sri Lankan in the fourth innings of a Test match since KusalPerera's unforgettable 153* in South Africa in 2019. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka will be playing two home series against the Black Caps and Australia. Ollie Pope's side, on the other hand, are set to face Pakistan in a three-match series and New Zealand later this year.

China bans 43
soccer players and
officials for life

BEIJING: The Chinese Football Association has banned for life 38 soccer players and five club officials after a two-year investigation into match-fixing and gambling, as part of a crackdown on corruption in one of China's most popular sports. The investigation found that 120 matches had been fixed, with 41 football clubs involved, Zhang Xiaopeng, a senior official from the Ministry of Public Security, told a press conference in Dalian, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The report did not say whether all the matches were in China. Three former Chinese internationals JinJingdao, Guo Tianyu and Gu Chao and South Korean player Son Jun-ho were among those banned for life, according to findings made public on Tuesday at the press conference by the ministry and the General Administration of Sport of China, at which the CFA president was also present. None of the players have made any public comment. Son was released in March after being detained for 10 months in China and returned to South Korea. Zhang said 44 individuals faced criminal penalties for bribery, gambling, and the illegal opening of casinos, while 17 others were found to have engaged in bribery and match-fixing. CFA President Song Kai said 43 of the 44 had been banned for life from football-related activities, and 17 others received five-year bans. The findings were announced ahead of a World Cup qualifier in Dalian later on Tuesday where Team China will host Saudi Arabia after last week's 7-0 loss away to Japan. The sport has long grappled with corruption, which fans have blamed for the underperformance of the men's national team. China in turn has ramped up its crackdown on soccer-related graft. In August, a former vice president of the national football association was sentenced to 11 years in prison for accepting bribes, and a former director of the competition department was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for the same offence. A former chairman of CFA was sentenced to life in prison in March. - Agencies

PCB
postpones
National
Men's U19
Championship

NAZIR SIVAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has indefinitely postponed the National Under-19 Three-Day Championship and the Under-19 One-Day Cup on the very first day of their commencement. In a brief statement issued by the PCB, it was announced that the matches of the National Under-19 Three-Day Championship, which was set to start today, have been postponed. The championship was to feature both three-day matches and the Under-19 One-Day Cup. According to the PCB, the competitions have been postponed indefinitely due to "unavoidable circumstances." A new schedule will be announced later. The PCB's announcement came at the end of the first day of the initial round of the three-day matches. Sources indicate that today's play at various centers will not be included in the official records.

Kane set for 100th cap, the
numbers behind his success

LONDON: Captain Harry Kane will become just the 10th man to make 100 England appearances when the Three Lions face Finland in the Nations League at Wembley on Tuesday. The 31-year-old made his debut in 2015 and is his country's all-time top scorer with 66 goals in 99 games. Bayern Munich striker Kane will become the first person since Wayne Rooney in November 2014 to earn a 100th cap for England. Rooney went on to earn 120 caps, putting him second on the all-time appearance list behind former goalkeeper Peter Shilton (125). The others to have surpassed the century of appearances are David Beckham (115), Steven Gerrard (114), Bobby Moore (108), Ashley Cole (107), Bobby Charlton (106), Frank Lampard (106) and Billy Wright (105). "When you look at the list [of players with 100 caps] it is a list of some of our greatest players," Kane said. "I'm sure when I'm retired I'll look back on this with immense pride." Kane said he will next target reaching 100 goals after making his 100th England appearance. "I've done around 15, 16, 17 caps a year whereas a normal year would be 10," he added. "The goals were similar. I felt I was on 30 goals and then I went to 50 and then 60. "It is definitely there and definitely possible. I feel like I am in a good place and these are good targets to try to reach. "Some people may see them as unrealistic but I would rather go for something unrealistic and not quite make it rather than be comfortable just saying I will be happy with 70 or 80 goals." It all started for Kane with a goal just 79 seconds into his debut. Starting on the bench in a Euro 2016 qualifier against Lithuania in March 2015, a 21-year-old Kane came on with the Three Lions 3-0 up and headed in his first goal for his country. Since then he has scored 46 more goals than any other England player. He has also provided more assists than any other player in that time with 17. Of his 99 caps, 29 have come at major tournaments for England (11 at the World Cup, 18 at the Euros), more than any other player. As well as being England's record scorer, he also has the most goals for England at major tournaments, with 15. Kane has scored five hat-tricks for England - against Panama, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Albania and San Marino. Only Jimmy Greaves has scored more with six. His 99 caps have come under four different managers. He made his debut with Roy Hodgson as boss and played 16 times for him, scoring five goals. Kane played in Sam Allardyce's only game in 2016 before making 81 appearances and scoring 61 goals under Gareth Southgate. He then started on Saturday in Lee Carsley's first game in charge against the Republic of Ireland. Asked about what has been the most difficult thing to be able to keep playing at the highest level, Kane told BBC Radio 5 live: "I think to be able to keep producing great numbers, keep producing great moments is probably the hardest thing to do, because there are many players who are trying to take your spot and to take your place. "It is healthy to have that but to be able to get my 100th cap in nine years, essentially shows great consistency." - Agencies

Rebecca Cheptegei alleged killer dies from burns
Ugandan Olympian suffered burns to more than 75% of her
body in the September 1 attack and died four days later

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: The former partner of Ugandan athlete Rebecca Cheptegei, who is accused of killing her by dousing her in petrol and setting her on fire, has died from burns sustained during the attack, the Kenyan hospital where he was being treated said on Tuesday. Cheptegei, 33, who competed in the marathon at the Paris Olympics, suffered burns to more than 75% of her body in the September 1 attack and died four days later. Her former boyfriend, Dickson NdiemaMarangach, died at 7.50 p.m. (12.50 p.m. ET) on Monday, said Daniel Lang'at, a spokesperson at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret in western Kenya, where Cheptegei was also treated and died. "He died from his injuries, the burns he sustained," Lang'at told Reuters. Local media reported that he had suffered 30% burns when he assaulted Cheptegei as she was returning home from church with her children. Cheptegei, who finished 44th in Paris, is the third elite sportswoman to be killed in Kenya since October 2021. Her death has put the spotlight on domestic violence in the East African country, particularly within its run-



ning community. Rights groups say female athletes in Kenya, where many international runners train in the high-altitude highlands, are at a high risk of exploitation and violence at the hands of men drawn to their prize money, which far exceeds local incomes. "Justice really would have been for him to sit in jail and think about what he had done. This is not positive news whatsoever," said Viola Cheptoo, co-founder of Tirop's Angels, a support group for survivors of domestic violence in Kenya's athletic community. "The shock of Rebecca's death is still fresh," Cheptoo told Reuters. Cheptoo co-founded Tirop's Angels in memory of Agnes Tirop, a rising star in Kenya's highly competitive athletics scene, who was found dead in her home in the town of Iten in October 2021, with multiple stab wounds to the neck. Ibrahim Rotich, Tirop's husband, was charged with her murder and has pleaded not guilty. The case is ongoing. Nearly 34% of Kenyan girls and women aged 15-49 years have suffered physical violence, according to government data from 2022, with married women at particular risk. The 2022 survey found that 41% of married women had faced violence. Globally, a woman is killed by someone in her own family every 11 minutes, according to a 2023 UN Women study.

Sept 10 to be
remembered
as black day
in history

FROM PAGE 01

government for allowing police to arrest the parliamentarians as well as prayer leader from the mosque. He termed the arrest of the PTI leaders from inside parliament an attack on law and constitution of Pakistan. Khan demanded imposition of Article 6 on those who ordered the arrest from inside the premises of parliament. Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Syed Naveed Qamar and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal condemned the arrest of the PTI leaders from inside the parliament building.

Imran Khan
defends K-P
CM, urges...

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He remarked that in this country, a person with a stick makes decisions, and those decisions become law. Imran Khan further stated that only democracy and the rule of law can save the nation. He also mentioned that he has no knowledge about the government's deal with the IMF. Noting that apart from Barrister Ali Zafar, no other party leader had come to meet him at Adala Jail today, Imran Khan appeared visibly upset during his informal conversation with journalists.

PIA privatisation
process to...

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The minister responded to a calling attention notice regarding the prolonged closure of Hyderabad airport for commercial flights, explaining that reopening PIA operations on this route is not financially feasible due to the airline's mounting debt. "Routes that are not financially viable cannot be operated," he added. Asif also noted that the government has no objection to private airlines operating from Hyderabad airport, indicating potential opportunities for the private sector. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the ongoing efforts to revive PIA flights to the United Kingdom, stating that significant steps had been taken, including changes to aviation laws to meet UK requirements. Deputy PM Dar also confirmed that both the privatisation of PIA and the outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport were moving forward on a fast track, with hopes of completion by early next month.

Indian
minister to
skip Pak visit

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan invited India along with other SCO members for the meeting. India, according to sources, confirmed its participation online, meaning its trade minister will not travel to Pakistan. This may serve as a template for India to attend other SCO meetings including the council of heads of governments meeting to be held in Islamabad in October. Pakistan already sent an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the meeting. It is expected that India, like the trade ministers meeting, will join the October 15 and 16 hurdle through online. India is unlikely to attend the SCO meeting in person but other member countries are expected to send their high-powered delegations. China already confirmed that its prime minister would undertake a visit to Islamabad for the SCO meeting as well as bilateral visit. SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. It has since expanded to include India, Pakistan, and Iran as full members, with Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia as observers, and other countries as dialogue partners. The SCO is often seen as a counter-balance to Western alliances like NATO and plays a significant role in fostering regional cooperation.

Briefs

Death toll from Typhoon Yagi in Vietnam climbs to 58

HANOI: The death toll from Typhoon Yagi has risen to 58 in northern Vietnam after heavy rains triggered landslides and flooding, local media reported on Tuesday. A total of 58 people have been confirmed dead, and 40 others went missing due to the most powerful tropical storm of the year, Vietnam News reported, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Among the casualties, at least 12 people died due to the storm, 72 from landslides and flash floods, six from floodwaters, and eight from the collapse of Phong Chau Bridge in Phu Th province on Monday. The typhoon hit northern Cao Bang, Lao Cai, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, and Phu Th provinces. More than 740 people also got injured due to the typhoon and flooding. The storm has also led 85 boats to sink in Quang Ninh, damaging thousands of hectares of rice, crops, and fruit trees. The flood also swept away 1,577 fish farming cages and killed 1,107 livestock and 678,945 poultry. The heavy rain has continued in different areas since early Tuesday, according to the National Centre for Hydro-meteorological Forecasting. The Vietnamese government has deployed thousands of military personnel to carry out relief and rescue operations in the affected areas. More than 50,000 people from coastal cities have been evacuated due to the typhoon. Typhoon Yagi, which struck the northern regions of the Philippines on Sept. 3, caused severe rain, flooding, and landslides, resulting in 20 deaths and 26 missing. The typhoon, which hit China's Hainan province on Sept. 7, led to the deaths of four people and injuries to 95 others.—Agencies

Russia rules out talks with Kyiv

MOSCOW: Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu said on Tuesday that Moscow will not engage in negotiations with Kyiv until Ukrainian troops are ousted from Russian territory. "As long as we haven't pushed them off our land, there will be no negotiations," Shoigu vowed in an interview with Russia-24 television. The former defense minister condemned Ukraine's attempts to reach the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), saying such actions are malicious and tantamount to the "height of terrorism." "There's a significant issue here - the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant. We do not and will not negotiate with terrorists. Their desire to commit nuclear terror at the Kursk NPP represents the highest level of terrorism. They aimed to advance and seize the plant, but thankfully, they failed," he emphasized. Russia and Ukraine continue fighting in the Kursk region, where Kyiv launched an incursion on Aug. 5-6, and in eastern Ukraine, where Moscow continues to claim advances on multiple fronts.—APP

Australia mulls ban on children using social media

CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday announced that his government plans to ban children from using social media. In a statement, Premier Albanese said that his Labor government will introduce legislation this year to enforce a minimum age for access to social media and other relevant digital platforms. "We know social media is causing social harm, and it is taking kids away from real friends and real experiences," said the Prime Minister. However, he didn't share further details about the age limit for children who will not be allowed to use social media. Albanese added that a Commonwealth-led approach to this important social issue will ensure Australian children are better protected from online harms.—Agencies



Ambassador Dr Yousaf Junaid addressing the audience on Defence and Martyrs Day reception held in Ankara. The event was graced by Turkish Minister of Trade H.E Prof. Dr Omer Bolat and Commander Turkish General Staff (TGS) General Metin Gurak.

Starmmer vows 'partnership' with unions but warns on pay

He warned, however, that decisions on pay would be shaped by "tough decisions" needed to protect the public finances - repeating his mantra that the Conservatives left Labour with a dire economic inheritance when they vacated office following a landslide election defeat in early July

NEWS DESK

BRIGHTON: Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday pledged to reset industrial relations strained by widespread strike action, as he became the first UK leader to address the annual meeting of Britain's trade unions in 15 years. The speech, however, came among early tensions between the young government and major unions over plans to cut energy benefits for millions of pensioners. Starmer's Labour party billed the speech as a powerful symbol that the centre-left party is back in government after nearly a decade and a half of Conservative rule. "Partnership is a more difficult way of doing politics," Starmer said, seeking to

draw a line under years of strike action and tensions between unions and the previous administration. Labour has historically been allied with trade union organisations, which contribute a substantial amount to the party's income. The Trade Union Congress (TUC), the umbrella body of 48 member unions comprising more than 5.5 million working people, helped found Labour in the early 20th century. Gordon Brown was the last premier to deliver a speech to its conference in 2009. "It's time to turn the page - business and unions, the private and public sector united by common cause, to rebuild our public services and grow our economy in a new way," Starmer, 62, told TUC delegates in the seaside resort of



Brighton. He warned, however, that decisions on pay would be shaped by "tough decisions" needed to protect the public finances - repeating his mantra that the Conservatives left Labour with a dire economic inheritance when they vacated office following a landslide election defeat in early July. "No one in this room wants to hear such a gloomy forecast, I get that," said Starmer,

adding though that he would not "risk" Labour's "mandate for economic stability, under any circumstances". Labour came to power pledging to end the waves of strikes over pay and conditions that blighted the country in sectors from the railways to hospitals in the last few years of Tory rule. It has already announced above-inflation pay rises for public sector workers such as teachers and doctors and struck a pay deal with train drivers to pave the way for renationalising the railways. Labour has also laid out proposals to legally ban practices such as "fire and rehire" - where employers let workers go in order to rehire them on contracts with inferior terms - and to ban zero-hours contracts, which leave work-

ers without a minimum number of hours to be worked. That has prompted concern among some business leaders while Starmer said his government would also scrap legislation introduced by the Conservatives that set higher thresholds for strike action. The TUC has welcomed the pay deals as a "crucial first step" but tensions are already emerging between some major unions and the new government. "It's good to have a Labour government," Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union general secretary Mick Lynch told AFP. "But they need to be ambitious and they need to be radical." The disagreements are in part caused by finance minister Rachel Reeves's

promise of imposing "iron discipline" over public finances to claw back what she says is a £22-billion (\$28.8-billion) black hole inherited from the Tories. "They've got a problem because they've given themselves these fiscal rules," said Lynch. "It will make it very difficult for them to deliver what they've promised and also what the country needs." Lynch was among union leaders to call on Starmer to reverse his government's decision to scrap winter fuel benefits for 10 million elderly people. He has described it as a "historic mistake", while Unite boss Sharon Graham accused Labour of opting to "pick the pocket of pensioners" while leaving the richest "totally untouched".

Arab ministerial meeting opens in Egypt to discuss Gaza

CAIRO: An Arab ministerial meeting convened in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, on Tuesday to discuss Israel's ongoing offensive on the Gaza Strip. Addressing the meeting, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit called for halting the Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian enclave. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "unwilling to agree to a cease-fire in Gaza," he said. "There is no choice but to halt the war," he added. The ministerial meeting, chaired by Yemen, is also attended by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, and UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza Sigrid Kaag. "The Muslim world will do whatever it takes to preserve the Islamic identity of Haram al-Sharif with the same spirit," said Fidan during his address at the meeting. He also warned supporters of the Israeli prime minister, saying that they are also accomplices to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. "They will also be held accountable," he added. The meeting discusses ways to end the ongoing Israeli attacks in Gaza and the West Bank, and diplomatic and legal measures to stop aggressive Israeli policies aimed at displacing Palestinians from their land, according to its announced agenda. It also addresses the situations in several Arab countries such as Libya, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia and security of navigation and energy supplies in the Gulf region. Israel has continued a brutal military 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 have since been killed, mostly women and children, and nearly 95,000 others injured, according to local health authorities.—APP

IAEA chief stresses importance of resolving safeguards issues

Rafael Grossi reiterates that Tehran has failed to meet its obligations under safeguards agreement

FOREIGN DESK

ISTANBUL : International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi on Monday highlighted the importance of resolving issues arising from Iran's obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Grossi said these issues need to be addressed for the agency to be able to provide assurances that Iran's nuclear program is entirely peaceful. Addressing Iran's nuclear activities and longstanding issues with the country, he noted that Tehran has not fulfilled its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for around three-and-a-half years. As a result, he said the agency has lost conti-

nity in information regarding technical equipment such as centrifuges used for uranium enrichment at nuclear facilities as well as wastewater and other elements related to monitoring. Grossi reiterated that Tehran has also failed to meet its obligations under the safeguards agreement. In addition, he said Iran has not complied with the Additional Protocol and Code 3.1 provisions. Noting that 15 months have passed without progress since the Joint Statement of March 4, 2023 between the two parties, Grossi called on Tehran to implement the Joint Statement. Saying he had been in contact with new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian following the country's presidential elections, Grossi said he hoped to hold talks with

Pezeshkian by November on enhancing Iran's cooperation with the agency. "He agreed to meet with me at an appropriate juncture. I encourage Iran to facilitate such a meeting in the not-too-distant future so that we can establish a constructive dialogue that leads swiftly to real results," said Grossi in a statement to a quarterly meeting of the Agency's 35-nation Board of Governors. "Nuclear safety in Ukraine Grossi said that during his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, they discussed the need for a more active approach to ensure the security of electrical transformer stations, which are of critical importance for the country's nuclear power plants. The IAEA chief said the situation at the

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains unstable, with ongoing challenges such as regular explosions, drone attacks, gunfire and repeated disruptions to the external power supply increasing the risk of a nuclear accident. Saying that all reactors at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant are kept shut down, he noted that as long as conflicts continue to jeopardize the nuclear safety and security of the facility, it is clear that no reactor will be restarted. Grossi also noted that he met with senior Russian officials in Kaliningrad due to an attempted attack on the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant in Russia. "Nuclear power plants in any way cannot be considered military targets. They're not legitimate military targets," he said.

EU scores court wins against Apple, Google

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, The EU's top court on Tuesday delivered two major victories in the bloc's battle against tech giants by ruling against Apple and Google in separate legal sagas worth billions of euros at play. The decisions give a boost to the bloc's outgoing competition chief, Margrethe Vestager, who had suffered a series of setbacks in EU courts against her decisions. Concluding a long-running legal battle, the European Court of Justice ruled that the iPhone maker must pay 13 billion euros (\$14.3 billion) in back-taxes to Ireland. "The Court of Justice gives final judgment in the matter and confirms the European Commission's 2016 decision: Ireland granted Apple unlawful aid which Ireland is required to recover," the court said in a statement. Minutes later, the court also upheld a 2.4-billion-euro fine against Google, one of a string of high-profile EU competition cases targeting the tech giant. The court dismissed an appeal by Google and its parent company Alphabet against the fine, slapped on the search engine in 2017 for abusing its dominant position by favouring its own comparison shopping service.—APP

SpaceX launches Polaris Dawn mission

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER: SpaceX launched its daring Polaris Dawn mission on Tuesday, a multiday orbital expedition carrying a four-member civilian crew for the first spacewalk by non-professional astronauts. The crew, led by Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman, is also aiming to fly deeper into space than any other manned mission in more than half a century, reaching a peak altitude of 870 miles (1,400 kilometers). "Liftoff of Polaris Dawn!" SpaceX said on X, alongside a photo of the take-off. The highlight of the mission will be the first spacewalk composed entirely of non-professionals, who are wearing sleek, newly developed SpaceX extravehicular activity (EVA) suits outfitted with heads-up displays, helmet cameras and an advanced joint mobility system. Applause broke out across the mission control center as the Dragon capsule separated successfully from the main engine and the first glimpses of Earth came into view.—APP

Helmy sworn in as replacement for Menendez

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: George Helmy, the former chief of staff for New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, was sworn in to the US Senate on Monday to temporarily replace former Sen. Bob Menendez, who stepped down following his conviction on corruption charges. "I'm incredibly humbled to be sworn in as New Jersey's junior senator. My career as a staffer has been about serving the people of NJ and getting the job done for those relying on us. I commit to serving NJ with determination and to ensure our work benefits the people we serve," Helmy said on X. Last month, Gov. Murphy appointed Helmy to fill the seat of Menendez, who was convicted on charges including bribery and acting as a foreign agent. Helmy's term will expire on Jan. 3. Democrat Andy Kim and Republican Curtis Bashaw are vying for the seat. Menendez announced in July that he would resign effective Aug. 20 after a federal jury in New York found him guilty on 16 counts tied to allegations of receiving bribes from foreign nations and acting as an unregistered foreign agent. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer had urged Menendez to step down shortly after the verdict was announced. I just want to say a word of congratulations to our new senator. He's going to be a great addition, and it's another ceiling being broken," Schumer said on the Senate floor after Helmy took the oath of office. Prosecutors had alleged that Menendez, 70, accepted bribes from a trio of New Jersey businessmen that included gold bars.—APP

Indian state orders internet blackout, curfew

Hundreds of Meitei people in the state capital Imphal defied a curfew imposed earlier Tuesday to demand security forces take action against Kuki insurgent groups, whom they blame for the latest spate of attacks

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India's strife-torn northeastern state of Manipur ordered an internet blackout on Tuesday, after imposing a curfew following days of deadly ethnic violence and clashes between protesters and police. Manipur has been rocked by periodic clashes for more than a year between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, dividing the state into ethnic enclaves. At least 11 people were killed last

week as hostilities between the two communities erupted again after months of relative calm. A notice from the state's home ministry ordered all internet and mobile data services in the state to be shut off for five days in order to bring the latest unrest under control. "Some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public," the notice said. "It has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain

law and order in public interest, by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours." Internet services were shut down for months in Manipur last year during the first outbreak of violence, which displaced around 60,000 people from their homes according to government figures. Thousands of the state's residents are still unable to return home owing to ongoing tensions. Hundreds of Meitei people in the state capital Imphal defied a curfew imposed earlier Tuesday to demand security forces take action against Kuki insurgent groups,

whom they blame for the latest spate of attacks. Indian TV broadcasters showed the police firing tear gas in an effort to disperse the rally. Student-led protests on Monday turned violent after the crowd threw stones and plastic bottles at security forces, police said in a statement. Protesters in another district snatched arms from police and fired at them, the statement added. "One police personnel was hit on the left thigh by a live round and another police personnel was hit in the face by an unknown projectile," it said. The protests were

motivated by a series of insurgent attacks using "improvised" projectile weapons and drone attacks that killed 11 people last week, in what police called a "significant escalation" of violence. Long-standing tensions between the Meitei and Kuki communities revolve around competition for land and public jobs. Rights activists have accused local leaders of exacerbating ethnic divisions for political gain. Manipur is ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Briefs

PTI making attempts to initiate talks with army

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda said on Tuesday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was desperate to hold talks with the establishment behind closed doors. Addressing the Senate session, the senator said no one could support the views of the PTI as they were against the interests of the country. He also alleged the deceased journalist Arshad Sharif was also victim of the PTI's politics. Vawda added that abusive culture in politics would not be tolerated.

PA to go digital, says speaker

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said on Tuesday practical steps would be taken to digitise the assembly's proceedings. In this regard, the assembly members shared their views with the speaker.

It was also reported that a digital studio would be established in the Punjab Assembly. Under digitalisation, all the proceedings of the assembly would be uploaded on social media platforms. Sources said the archive data of the assembly would also be protected. The complete proceeding of the Punjab Assembly can be seen on 'Provincial Assembly of the Punjab'.

KP House is a nursery of terrorists: Azma

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Tuesday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House had turned into a breeding ground for terrorists. Speaking to reporters outside the Lahore High Court (LHC), Bokhari said that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur's tone and tenor was that of terrorists during his speech at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Sangjani public gathering on Sept 8, adding that Gandapur's anti-state was unacceptable.

"We don't want any battle between provinces. Punjab has always played big brother's role. We will not let KP CM house turn into a shelter for terrorists. The people running the KP house will have to clear their position," she added. She blamed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's founder Imran Khan for uttering below the belt remarks about his political opponents, which she said, was followed by all PTI leaders and workers. She ruled out any possibility for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's to hold a public gathering in Punjab, informing that Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz would look into the matter of the PTI's public rally herself.

Fin Min reiterates govt's resolve for restructuring of power sector

The Minister recounted the structural reforms being undertaken in the power sector, including reconstitution of Boards of Directors of Discos by bringing in professionals from private sector and reducing the number of government nominees



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurang-

zeb held a meeting with Mr. Mark Skelton, Chairman Board of Directors K-Electric, on Tuesday to exchange views around K-Electric's plans for catering to growing energy demands of Karachi and the company's trans-

sition to renewables to ensure affordable and sustainable energy for the residents of port city. Mr. Javed Kureishi, Member Board of Directors KE, Mr. Mubasher H. Sheikh, Member Board of Directors KE, Mr. Moon-

isAlvi, CEO KE, Mr. Imran Qureshi, Chief Regulatory Affairs KE, M. Aamir Ghaziani, CFO KE and senior officials of the Finance Division also attended the meeting.

The KE team briefed the Minister regarding its plans to include renewable in its generation mix, with a view to lowering down the cost of electricity for Karachi. They also apprised the Minister of other initiatives being taken by KE for improved service delivery to residents of Karachi.

The Minister recounted the structural reforms being undertaken in the power sector, including reconstitution of Boards of Directors of Discos by bringing in professionals from private sector and reducing the number of government nominees to bring in more efficiency in the boards and improve overall service delivery.

He reiterated the government's resolve to ensure private sector participation in all government-owned discos and gencos and mentioned the start of process of privatizing of three discos in line with the Prime Minister's vision to enable and facilitate the private sector to lead the economy.

The Minister also lauded the initiatives taken by K-Electric for further investment and expansion of its energy and distribution operations, and assured full support for its efforts to transition to renewables and production of cheaper and affordable energy through the use of domestic resources.

US amb. Blome highlights "Recharge Pak" initiative

The project will deploy a network of green infrastructure solutions to rehabilitate floodwater channels, restore wetlands, and improve soil water absorption

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome on Tuesday addressed the launch of the "Recharge Pakistan" initiative here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The ambitious climate project aims to bolster flood resilience and enhance water security across vulnerable regions in Pakistan. Ambassador Blome began his remarks by recognizing PIPS, an independent research and training facility for parliamentarians established with U.S. funding. He emphasized the institute's significant role in educating and supporting Pakistani lawmakers through extensive training and

policy research. The "Recharge Pakistan" initiative, which sees a \$5 million contribution from the United States, is designed to address critical water management challenges exacerbated by climate change. Groundwater, vital for drinking water, agriculture, and livestock, is under threat as climate change disrupts natural water recharge processes. Ambassador Blome likened groundwater to a battery that powers essential life functions but is increasingly unable to recharge due to changing environmental conditions. The project will deploy a network of green infrastructure solutions to rehabilitate floodwater channels, restore wetlands, and improve soil water absorption. Expected outcomes include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 53,000 tons of CO2, creating 127 new groundwater storage basins, and reducing flooding hazards across 50,000 hectares. The initiative is projected to benefit approximately 687,000 people directly and over seven million indirectly in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh. The envoy highlighted the historical U.S.-Pakistan partnership in water management, citing collaborative projects like the Mangla and Tarbela dams. He underscored recent efforts under the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, which focuses on renewable energy, smart agriculture, and water management. "Recharge Pakistan" builds on this longstanding partnership and represents a further commitment to addressing climate change impacts.

Barrister Gohar released 'We will not back off', says PTI after arrest of party leaders

Omar Ayub terms Sept 9 "black day", claiming that "masked whisked away several party leaders"

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has vowed to continue its anti-government movement a day after several of its leaders were arrested from Parliament House in late night police crackdown. "There should be no misunderstanding as people have stood up," said PTI leader Salman Akram Raja while addressing a press conference in Peshawar on Tuesday. PTI leaders including Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Azam Swati, and Salman Akram Raja were also present at the presser held after the conclusion of the former ruling party's core committee meeting. "Some people are influencing the country's political and democratic process," alleged Raja, adding that they would not back off and let anyone suppress the voice of Pakistanis. Defending the PTI leaders' speeches in the Islamabad rally, the lawyer-cum-politician was of the view that political power show has a different environment. The opposition party strongly condemned the lawmakers' arrests, including the detention of some MNAs from the parliament, in a police crackdown on its leadership in Islamabad launched on alleged violations of the public gathering law's violations. At the beginning of the press conference, journalists protested over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's remarks against the newsmen during his explosive speech in the PTI's Islamabad power show two days ago. Journalists questioned why the KP chief executive was absent from the press conference for whom Omar had assured that he would tender an apology for his indecent remarks. Raja replied that CM Gandapur departed for an assembly session. Addressing the press conference, Ayub, who is also the Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, slammed the coalition government for using all tactics to stop his party's Islamabad public gathering.

Saudi embassy officially resumes operations in Syria

DAMASCUS: Saudi embassy in Syria has officially resumed its mission in the Arab country, as the two sides seek to foster bilateral relations after more than a decade of severed ties.

Speaking at a ceremony held by the embassy in Damascus on Monday, the Saudi Charge d'affaires, Abdullah al-Haris, described the resumption of the embassy's activities as an important moment in the history of ties between the two countries. He stressed the embassy's keenness to make every effort to promote Damascus-Riyadh ties.

For his part, Syria's Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ayman Raad reiterated that the two countries maintain deep ties. He told Syria's official news agency (SANA) that the resumption of the Saudi embassy's mission and the reopening of the Syrian embassy in Riyadh that took place in October last year will enable the two countries to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance the joint Arab action that serves the interests of the region's peoples. - Agencies

Israeli strike kills 40 in humanitarian zone

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: Gaza's civil defense agency said Tuesday that an Israeli strike on a humanitarian zone in the south of the Palestinian territory killed 40 people and wounded 60 others, with the Israeli army saying it had targeted a Hamas command center in the area.

The strike hit Al-Mawasi - in Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis - which was designated a safe zone by the Israeli military early in the war, with tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians seeking refuge there. However, Israel's military has occasionally carried out operations in and around the area, including a strike in July that it said killed Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif, and which Gaza health authorities said killed more than 90 people.

Advanced metres installation in full swing

Plan afoot to replace all outdated electricity metres with AMI metres by 2026: IESCO

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan's state-of-the-art Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project is steadily progressing in the Islamabad Electricity Supply Company's (IESCO) region. According to the IESCO spokesperson the project is driven by a commitment to bring power sector reforms, innovation, and exceptional customer service. In the initial phase, the installation of AMI meters is rolling out swiftly in the two operation circles of IESCO, namely Rawalpindi City and Rawalpindi Cantt. As of the latest report, over 110,000 AMI meters have been successfully installed. It is expected that by 2026, the replacement of all outdated electricity meters in Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantt Circles, and Taxila, whereas all MDI meters and high license feeders on Industrial tariff

in the surrounding areas, will be replaced with AMI meters, the official said adding the upgradation is anticipated to result in the provision of uninterrupted power supply and a substantial reduction in line losses. The installation of AMI meters will ensure 100pc accurate and timely meter reading, effective control of electricity theft, precise estimation of electricity demand and supply, real-time monitoring and control of electricity consumption, enhanced revenue recovery and automated registration of meter faults to the SDO office, said the spokesperson adding the step is a pioneering initiative and a new venture in Pakistan's power sector. In this regard, while IESCO teams are encountering technical challenges and receiving customer complaints, prompt action is being taken to ensure swift and effective redressal of grievances of its esteemed consumers.



ISLAMABAD: Country Director, UN Information Center, Catherine Weibel inaugurating an art exhibition at Satrang Gallery in a local hotel in the Federal Capital. - DNA



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