



Islamabad POST

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Cristiano Ronaldo breaks social record in 'surprising' move

Detailed News On Page-06

Indian SC grants bail to Kejriwal

Detailed News On Page-08

Peace 'only way out' of wars: China

Detailed News On Page-07

'Judicial reforms' package

Govt all set to introduce amendment

Judicial Commission also proposes changes in appointment of judges; in future for high courts chief justices 3 names shall be proposed; 3 names shall also be proposed for SC Judge: Justice Munib leaves judicial commission meeting

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amid rumours of a judiciary-centric legislation aiming to extend the retirement age of superior courts' judges, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has asserted that the government is poised to introduce a 'constitutional amendment' in the National Assembly (NA) today (Saturday) as it has achieved the 'magic number'. "We have completed the number game in the lower house of parliament," he said in an informal conversation with journalists at the parliament's corridor on Friday. A session of the National Assembly has been summoned tomorrow, he confirmed. The defence czar's remarks came amid reports suggesting that the government is mulling introducing a number of judicial reforms through a 'constitutional package', which also includes an extension in the retirement age of top courts' judges. Article 179 of the Constitution envisages that a judge of the Supreme Court shall hold office until he attains the age of 65 years unless he sooner resigns or is removed from office under the Constitution. Article 195 of the Constitution says that a judge of a high court shall hold office until he attains the age of 62 years unless he sooner resigns or is removed from office following the Constitution. The government intends to increase the retirement age of Supreme Court judges to 68.

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JUI-F may not back any amendment

Fazl also rules out possibility of Governor Rule in KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rahman ruled out any probability of imposing Governor's rule in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Talking to the newsmen in the National Assembly JUI-F chief said that the law and order situation in the KP was not good. Can the governor control such a situation, he asked. He termed the KP CM's statement to have talks with Afghanistan as emotional that were far from reality. Responding to his stance on the constitutional amendment, he explained that his party would not back it. He said that his party members would support it if anything surfaces regarding the reforms in the parliament.



PESHAWAR: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir lays the wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and pays tribute to Shuhada. - DNA

ADB approves \$320 for KP

These cover key routes that link remote communities to education, health care, and markets

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$320 million loan to support the rehabilitation of roads in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, enhancing safe and all-weather connectivity in rural areas. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project will upgrade around 900 kilometers of rural roads in the province that are susceptible to floods and are in poor condition, according to ADB press release received here on Friday. These cover key routes that link remote communities to education, health care, and markets, it said adding the project includes measures

Continued on Page 06

Bilawal says Governor rule possible in KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday said that his party does not support governor rule but the option can be considered as a "last resort under limited circumstances" for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the light of the ongoing situation in the province. Reports of the imposition of a governor rule in KP surfaced after Governor Faisal Karim Kundi made a telephone call to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to inform

Continued on Page 06

Resolves to maintain peace

COAS reiterates resolve to defeat terrorist nexus

Resolves to defeat hostile terrorist nexus and eliminate activities in illegal spectrum

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited troops in Orakzai District who had participated in the recently conducted counter-terrorism actions in Tirah Valley and surroundings. COAS was given a comprehensive briefing on overall security situation, ongoing Intelligence Based counter-terrorism actions and multi-prong measures being undertaken to ensure stability in Merged Districts. In his interaction with officers and troops, COAS appreciated their high morale and readiness to give effective response against all types of threat. COAS reiterated the resolve to comprehensively defeat hostile terrorist nexus and eliminate activities in illegal spectrum. Paying rich tribute to Shuhada and Ghazis of Army, and LEAs, COAS said that the hard earned

Continued on Page 06

Two terrorists killed in DG Khan operation

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Friday killed two terrorists during an operation carried out in Dera Ghazi Khan, a statement issued in this regard said. According to a CTD spokesman, the law enforcement agency carried out an operation on the district's Quetta Road on Thursday night upon receiving information related to the presence of terrorists. During an exchange of gunfire with the CTD, "two terrorists were killed by the firing of their own accomplices, while the other two terrorists managed to escape from the scene

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Economic indicators show positive trajectory

Says policy rate and inflation have decreased

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said collective efforts by the entire nation, especially the youth, are vital to make Pakistan self-reliant and debt-free. He was talking to the young parliamentarians belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in Islamabad today. The Prime Minister said the policy rate and inflation have decreased, while remittances from Pakistani expatriates and exports of agricultural goods are on the rise. He said all these positive indicators show that the economy is heading in the right direction.

Gohar slams Khawaja Asif

Defence Minister Asif should have courage to listen to responses, says PTI chairman

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said they were sitting in the National Assembly with a heavy heart just to move forward. The PTI chairman and other party leaders said they were demeaned in the assembly. He said he was responding to the speech delivered by Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif. He mocked Asif saying that the opposition members were not subservient to him and asked him to listen to the answers.

Holiday Notice

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

Questions integrity of judiciary

Imran Khan blames establishment for KP CM disappearance

PTI's founding leader claims K-P CM protecting establishment's reputation by staying silent over his 'disappearance.'

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding leader Imran Khan has alleged that the establishment is responsible for the disappearance of Ali Amin Gandapur adding that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister has remained silent out of loyalty and respect for the establishment. Speaking informally to journalists at Adiala Jail on Friday, Imran further claimed that the current situation in the country is reminiscent of "Yahya Khan Part II," accusing the establishment of undermining the country's institutions. He stated that public trust in the police and lower judiciary has diminished, citing an alleged incident of a judge taking "three hours of instructions

Continued on Page 06

IHC declares PTI lawmakers' physical remand null and void

CJ Aamer Farooq says whoever wrote first information report should be given credit for writing a good comedy

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday declared the eight-day remand of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members of the National Assembly as null and void. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and

Continued on Page 06

US continues 'sanctions' on suppliers to Pakistan

"Sanctions imposed for knowingly transferring equipment under missile technology restrictions," says spox

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD: The United States' Department of State said it has taken action against five entities and one individual involved in the proliferation of ballistic missiles and controlled missile equipment and technology to Pakistan. According to a statement issued by the department's spokesperson, Matthew Miller, on Thursday, the Beijing Research Institute of Automation for Machine Building Industry had worked with Pakistan to procure equipment for testing rocket motors for the Shaheen-3 and Ababeel systems and potentially for larger systems. Washington similarly targeted three China-based companies with sanctions in October 2023 for supplying missile applicable items to Pakistan. The sanctions also targeted China-based firms Hubei Huachangda Intelligent Equipment Co, Universal Enterprise, and Xi'an Longde Technology Development Co, alongside Pakistan-based Innovative Equipment and a Chinese national, for knowingly transferring equipment under missile technology restrictions, Miller said. "As today's actions demonstrate, the United States will continue to

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Pakistan committed to strengthen ties with EU: Ayaz

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday said that Pakistan highly valued its relationship with the European Union and was committed to strengthening that bond into a robust strategic partnership. "Pakistan is a multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-national country, where citizens enjoy fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution," he said during a meeting with the EU delegation, led by Frans van Daele, Special Envoy of the European Union, at the Parliament House. Dr Reena Kavinka, EU's Ambassador to Pakistan was also

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Experts gathering held on developing guidelines for cryosphere monitoring

Dr. Arun Shrestha, Strategic Group Lead for Managing Climate and Environmental Risks at ICIMOD, discussed the organization's initiatives and its longstanding involvement in Pakistan

DNA

PESHAWAR: Around 25 experts and representatives from across Pakistan gathered for a consultation workshop on developing standardized guidelines for cryosphere monitoring in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region. Organized by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the gathering marks a significant step towards establishing consistent methodologies and protocols for monitoring glaciers, snow, and permafrost in the HKH region. In his welcome address, Sher Muhammad, Cryosphere Specialist at ICIMOD, emphasized the significance of the workshop, underscoring the need for standardized cryosphere monitoring methodologies to ensure consistency in data collection. "This is not just about research; it's about ensuring reliable data that can inform

decision-making and help us better understand cryosphere changes and their downstream impacts," Sher told participants. Dr. Arun Shrestha, Strategic Group Lead for Managing Climate and Environmental Risks at ICIMOD, discussed the organization's initiatives and its longstanding involvement in Pakistan. He emphasized how ICIMOD has shifted its approach, stepping back to enable regional member countries to take the lead in cryosphere monitoring. ICIMOD focuses on providing capacity-building support and other critical assistance to its partners. Arif Goheer, newly appointed Executive Director of the Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) while reflecting on the long-standing collaboration between ICIMOD and GCISC, highlighted the importance of building on past achievements to strengthen cryosphere research capacity in Pakistan further. "Our collaboration began with glacier monitoring in

2018 and capacity-building in 2019, and I'm pleased to say that our partnership has only grown stronger. Today's consultation is another step in this journey." The main agenda of the workshop was reviewing the draft guideline for a standardized cryosphere monitoring approach in the HKH region. The participants also exchange knowledge and experiences on existing methodologies and the status of cryosphere monitoring in Pakistan, improving understanding of the use of standardized guidelines in cryosphere research. Later, Sher Muhammad expressed his gratitude and mentioned "We look forward to your insights, which will help us create guidelines that are not only scientifically robust but also practical for researchers working in the field." With a renewed sense of purpose and collaboration, the participants departed with the promise of ongoing consultations and a shared commitment to advancing cryosphere monitoring in the HKH region.

Enraged driver rams vehicle into traffic police officials

PESHAWAR: An angry carry high-roof driver rams his vehicle into two traffic police officials injuring one of them and managed to escape the scene in Nishtarabad area here on Friday. According to traffic police officials, the driver who was given a ticket for violation of traffic rules, hit two traffic police officials on the busy road in Nishtarabad. The injured traffic police official told media persons that the driver stroked his vehicle on both the police officials with the intention to kill them. The injured traffic police official was shifted to Lady Reading Hospital for treatment. A video of the incident also went viral on social media showing clearly that the driver intentionally hit the police officials. Police said the vehicle has been identified and very soon the mobile phone number and location of the driver would be traced adding that the culprit will soon be behind the bars.—APP

Action against prominent Tobacco companies demanded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) has called for immediate action following the unauthorized reduction in cigarette prices by a prominent and leading tobacco brand. The company has drastically lowered its prices from Rs. 483 to Rs. 283, a move that not only violates existing tobacco control laws but also poses a severe threat to public health, particularly targeting youth and minors. Previously, at the price of Rs. 483, the company paid approximately Rs. 74 in taxes per pack. With the new price of Rs. 283, they are now paying only Rs. 43 in taxes — a reduction of Rs. 32 per pack. This decrease significantly impacts the country's economy, as it results in a substantial reduction in tax revenue. The tobacco industry, in response to rising cigarette prices, reduces prices to lower their tax liabilities, leading to increased consumption. This not only undermines tax collection but also exacerbates public health risks, particularly in a country already burdened by economic challenges. According to 2015 estimates, Pakistan's health cost burden from tobacco use was Rs. 615 billion, a figure that will likely increase if cigarette prices continue to drop.—APP

Govt to ensure implementation of minimum wages for nurses: Tarar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday informed the National Assembly that the government would fully implement a minimum wage of Rs 37,000 in private hospitals for nurses and paramedical staff. Responding to a question during the session's question hour, he said that the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) had issued directives to all private hospitals to ensure 100% compliance with the minimum wage for nurses and paramedical staff. The minister said, "At present, nurses are drawing between Rs 30,000 and Rs 50,000, while paramedical staff receive between Rs 20,000 and Rs 30,000." He assured the assembly that the government would enforce the wage directive within one month following the IHRA's orders and warned that hospitals failing to comply would face strict action. In response to another question, Tarar mentioned that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had instructed the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) to train nurses to meet the growing demand in domestic markets, as well as in the Middle

East and Europe. He said that the NVTTC had been directed to ensure international-standard training and to enhance its capacity for training nurses. He also supported the suggestion to introduce nursing as a subject in educational curricula. In response to another question, the minister said, "The government has taken significant steps to comprehensively address women's health challenges. These measures include establishing Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) guidelines and the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS), which focus on family planning and addressing complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality." "Basic Health Units (BHUs) have been upgraded to provide Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (B-EmONC) services around the clock," he added. "The government has also launched national screening and awareness campaigns for breast and cervical cancer among women. The LHW Strategic Plan (2022-2028) particularly focuses on strengthening primary healthcare services in marginalized, remote, rural, and urban slum communities," he said. He said, "Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy (2022-2027) is another significant initiative aimed at improving maternal health. The Pakistan Adolescent Nutrition Strategy addresses challenges adolescent girls face, including anaemia, micro-nutrient deficiencies, underweight, and obesity, by promoting healthy eating habits, targeted supplementation, physical activity, hygiene practices, and overall healthy lifestyles." "The government has also strengthened laws to combat harassment, such as the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010), helping to prevent mental health crises resulting from harassment," he said. "An Anti-Rape Crisis Cell (ARCC) was established at the Federal Government Services Hospital in August 2024 to provide survivors with comprehensive services, including medical and psychological support, legal aid, and counselling, all in one place," he added. He said, "A campaign focused on breast cancer screenings has been launched, particularly targeting rural areas. Camps have already been set up to educate people on the issue. Private TV channels have been encouraged to broadcast breast cancer awareness ads free of cost, and Breast Cancer Week is being observed across the country." According to World Health Organization (WHO) statistics, "Approximately 40,000 women globally die from breast cancer each year.

President grants relief worth Rs 15.2 m to nine policyholders

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday upheld nine decisions of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO), directing two insurance companies to pay a collective sum of over Rs 15.2 million to insurance policyholders or their family members. The president gave these directions while rejecting six representations of EFU Life Assurance Ltd and three representations of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Ltd, filed against FIO's decisions. As per the details, it was alleged before FIO that the agents of EFU Life Assurance allured Muhammad Shafiq and Adeeb Roshan, whereas Muhammad Mumtaz Malik, Muhammad Shabbir, and Abid Hussain Khokhar were enticed by the agents of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Ltd to invest their monies in profitable schemes, assuring them of monthly returns on their investments. When they approached the companies concerned for returns or reimbursement of their amounts, the companies rejected their claims. In other cases, EFU Life Assurance Limited repudiated the death claims filed by the family members of late Ali Haider, Shaikh Ali Hassan, Chand Ali, and Ali Akbar. Feeling aggrieved, the complainants separately approached the FIO for the redressal of their complaints. The Ombudsman, after hearing their cases, directed the companies to pay a total of Rs 15.2 million to the complainants. Later, the insurance companies filed separate representations against the decisions of FIO before the President of Pakistan. The hearings of the cases were held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, and since, no legal infirmity was found in the impugned orders of FIO, the representations were rejected. Consequently, EFU Life Assurance Ltd was directed to pay Rs 3 million to Nazara Bibi, Rs 3.077 million to Noor Hassan, Rs 2.508 million to Naik Muhammad, Rs 796,000 to Kamila Ali, Rs 1.612 million to Muhammad Shafiq, Rs 933,992 to Adeeb Roshan. —APP

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board Tree plantation drive inaugurated

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has started a tree plantation drive 'Plant for Pakistan' in the Cantt areas. The inaugural plantation drive was held in Cantt Public School, Seham in which Member RCB, Chaudhry Abdul Shakoor planted saplings. CEO RCB, Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi was also present on the occasion. The students of the school planted saplings and became part of the plantation campaign on this occasion. Ch. Abdul Shakur thanked the school management and RCB for organizing the ceremony and initiating plantation drive. He said that everyone should plant more trees to make Pakistan greener. He said that the goal of elimination of environmental pollution in the country would be achieved soon. Appreciating RCB's efforts in enhancing greenery, he said that RCB was a big part of making Rawalpindi green. He further highlighted that planting trees is our religious and national duty. "Environmental pollution has increased significantly because of the decrease in trees and forests", he said.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, viewing a painting during painting exhibition titled Fractured Landscapes- Flourishing Spirits by Abid Hassan at Gallery-6.

Action against alms-seeking in ICT; 23 arrested

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad, led by Assistant Commissioner Rural, has arrested 23 persons from different areas of the Federal Capital involved in professional begging. The arrests took place within the jurisdictions of Lohibir, Sahala, Kural, and Hamak police stations, said the spokesman of ICT administration. The arrested beggars were taken to the police station. Meanwhile, minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care and rehabilitation. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, emphasized the need for stronger measures against professional beggars in the city. He urged citizens to avoid encouraging beggars, as this practice fuels organized begging activities. Authorities have also requested the public's cooperation in identifying and reporting cases of professional begging. By discouraging this practice, the administration aims to reduce its presence in public spaces and improve the overall environment of the city.—APP

NUST and Jhpiego host art competition

ISLAMABAD: NUST School of Health Sciences (NSHS) in collaboration with Jhpiego, Pakistan hosted an art competition on climate change and its impact on health and communities. Themed "HER Climate" with HER standing for Healthy Communities and Environment Resilient, the competition sought to engage students in a creative exploration of climate issues through their artwork. The event witnessed exuberant participation from over 100 students, who showcased their creativity while reflecting the crucial intersection of climate and community health. An overwhelming number of faculty and students from NSHS, Bahria University, SZAMBU and Fazia Medical College attended the event. Prominent amongst the attendees were Dr Zaem Zia, District Health Officer Islamabad; Dr Osman Hasan, Pro-Rector Academics, NUST; and Prof Dr Rizwan Ashraf, Principal NSHS. Dr Zaem highlighted the importance of youth involvement in addressing climate change. APP

12th death anniversary comedian Lehri

ISLAMABAD: The 12th death anniversary of versatile legendary comedian 'Saeerullah Siddiqui' known as Lehri is being observed on Friday. He was born in Kanpur on January 2, 1929, he moved to Karachi after partition and began working as a stenotypist during his teenage years. Lehri was one of the greatest comedians who made his name through film career from 1950s to 1980s. His big break came in the 1950s, when director Sheikh Lateef cast him in his film Anokhi. Out of the 225 films that Lehri acted during his career, his comic roles in 'Mera Ghar Meri Jannat', 'Tasvir', 'Tum Salam Raho', 'Ishara', 'Nai Laila Naya Majnon'.—APP

Commissioner Kohat stresses on promotion of industrialization

DNA

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Kohat Division, Syed Motasim Billah Shah on Friday stressed the need for the promotion of industrialization vital to provide job opportunities for youth. He expressed these views during his visit to the small industrial estate Kohat where he was informed about local problems and suggestions for the promotion of industries in Kohat. The Commissioner was told that there was a great potential for industrialization in the district and investors are also there but the only need is to encourage them through easy-doing-business policies. Commissioner Kohat said under the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and Chief Minister Awami Agenda program, the Kohat administration is ready for all kinds of cooperation. He made it clear that prosperity in the region is not possible without economic development, so he will soon call a meeting of all relevant departments to prepare an action plan for it. By promoting industry and trade,

he said that unemployment could be addressed. He assured all efforts to resolve the residential, drainage, security and other problems of the industrial zone on a priority basis. Commissioner Kohat while welcoming the offer of the industrial sector to teach skills to the poor children of class 10 of the government schools by each active unit to four children in their free time, thanked the administrators of the industrial zone and appreciated their dedication and patriotism. He assured full cooperation from the district and divisional administration in this regard.

Ayaz Sadiq inaugurates calligraphic exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday inaugurated the calligraphic exhibition of the names of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Seerat Mahal Book Corner in the Library of National Assembly at Parliament House. Addressing the participants on the occasion, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said, "The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the Mercy for the whole universe, Humanity and other creature." He added that the noble model and unmatched nobility of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) are a beacon of light for all of us. The Speaker said that ess in this world and the hereafter is dependent upon following the excellent deeds of the

Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He also underscored that the teachings of the



Prophet ? teach us brotherhood, peace, justice, and service to humanity. Ayaz Sadiq said, "In this blessed month, we need to remember the teachings of the Prophet and implement these teachings in our lives." It is pertinent to mention that

the exhibition was held on the special instructions of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on the occasion of the holy month of Rabi Awwal. As many as 112 models of art were displayed in a calligraphy exhibition. He expressed appreciation for the creativity of renowned calligrapher Wasil Shahid. Later on, the Speaker inaugurated a dedicated book corner called Serat Mahal in the Library of the National Assembly. In the corner, 400 rare books regarding the life of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) are kept in the Seerat Mahal Corner. The books will play a valuable role in providing information to the members, researchers, and other readers regarding the life of the Holy Prophet.—APP



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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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
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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



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MH.....5611116
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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

Exclusive Malaysia cultural coffee morning in Islamabad

While enjoying the delicious spread, multi media show on PERWAKILAN' activities and Malaysia was presented on the big screen. This was followed by a series of cultural performances, featuring traditional dances by Kencana Pawana, UMP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PERWAKILAN Islamabad under the leadership of To' Puan Amelia Amani Abdullah, Chairperson of PERWAKILAN successfully hosted an exclusive coffee morning get-together celebrating Malaysian Culture on Wednesday, 11 September 2024. The event started off with a welcome remarks by H.E. Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, followed by the presentation of appreciation certificates to the cultural performers from Kencana Pawana, University Malaysia Pahang (UMP), Al-Sultan Abdullah, Malaysia; Chef Pathma of Islamabad Serena Hotel and Madam Sofia. The main purpose of the event was to strengthen the bond of friendship and socio-cultural understanding with the diplomatic ladies circle, Pakistani and Malaysian ladies residing in Pakistan. Apart from that, it was also a culmination of the High Commission's Malaysia 67th National Day Celebration and Malaysia Food Festival Week. Guests were treated to a delightful brunch of Malaysian style fried noodles, spring rolls, dessert (kuhi bakar) and variety of pastries and seasonal fruits. While enjoying the delicious spread, multi media show on PERWAKILAN'



activities and Malaysia was presented on the big screen. This was followed by a series of cultural performances, featuring traditional dances by Kencana Pawana, UMP. To their delight, the guests were visibly impressed with the different traditional Malaysia's costumes presented by PERWAKILAN'

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Xinjiang's brown cow a hope to boost dairy production in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China Xinjiang's region brown cow could create a new era of sustainable dairy farming in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday quoting experts. In the tranquil pastures of Xinjiang's Yining County, a brown cow grazes quietly on wild grass, producing an impressive 20 kilograms of milk each day. Meanwhile, in Pakistan's Malakand division, the native Achai cow roams the rugged mountains, resilient and self-sufficient, yet yielding a modest three kilograms of milk. The contrast is striking, yet these two regions, despite their geographical distance, share a similar climate that could pave the way for a new agricultural future. Imagine combining the Achai cow's hardiness with the high-yield potential of Xinjiang's brown cow, creating a new era of sustainable dairy farming in Pakistan. During a visit to Ili Yimuxin Dairy Co., Ltd. in Yining, it was witnessed how China is enhancing the productivity of its native brown cows using cutting-edge technology. This dairy company goes beyond just producing milk—it cultivates its own grass, breeds cows, pro-

cesses various dairy products, and even offers educational sessions to local youth to raise awareness about the benefits of dairy. Set against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains and lush green valleys, Yining is the only place in China where natural beauty and advanced dairy farming coexist so harmoniously. Certified in 1983 by China's Ministry of Agriculture, the Xinjiang Brown Cow was recognized as a "novel dual-purpose dairy-beef" breed. Since then, selective breeding, including the use of frozen semen from abroad, has enhanced its lineage. Today, the Xinjiang Brown Cow is one of the region's finest, driving socio-economic growth and meeting the growing market demand. "These brown cows aren't large, and they graze freely on wild grasslands rather than being confined to indoor farms. This natural diet enhances the quality of their milk," an official from the company told Gwadar Pro. Although their daily yield is around 20 kilograms, the milk's high protein content—3.8 grams per kilogram—makes it a premium product. Ili Yimuxin Dairy has established a niche in the high-end market with five product lines, including

fresh milk, yogurt, and milk beverages. Their yogurt, a standout product, can be stored for over 20 days. The company also features ancient Chinese poems celebrating milk's virtues, adding cultural depth with lines like: "Pour the cheese refined from milk to awaken wisdom" and "Celebrating New Year is incomplete without milk and shortbread." Local farmers humorously say that "Xinjiang brown cattle eat Chinese herbs and drink mineral water." The company uses mobile milking units to collect fresh milk directly from the pastures and plans to introduce 120 automated milking vehicles for local farmers. Rigorous testing ensures the milk is safely stored in massive tanks, each with a capacity of up to 30,000 tons. Employing 197 people, the company distributes its premium dairy products across mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao, and is currently in discussions for collaboration with Kazakhstan. In contrast, while China seeks to increase milk production—despite lower-than-average consumption due to factors like lactose intolerance—the situation in Pakistan's Malakand region is quite different. Here, milk is an essential part of

daily life, yet its availability is limited. The small, hardy Achai cow, native to the hilly areas of Malakand in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, survives on wild grass in harsh climates. Although this breed produces relatively little milk, it plays a crucial role in the lives of local farmers. Milk, yogurt, butter, and lassi are dietary staples, and black tea is made rich and creamy with the cow's thick milk. The Achai cow holds deep cultural significance, even finding a place in Pashto poetry that has been passed down through generations. One well-loved poem, "Zama Ghwa" (My Cow), was once included in the Pashto curriculum at the primary school level. The poem reads: "My cow, black with white spots, Has a gentle female calf, This is the Achai breed, With a long tail and smooth skin, I let her graze freely on the grasslands And give her water to drink. The milk she provides. Is enough to sustain our entire family." This simple yet evocative verse captures the enduring connection between the people of Malakand and the resilient Achai cow, reflecting its importance not just in daily life, but in local culture and tradition. Habib-ur-Rehman, a 70-year-old folk veterinarian from Dir Lower in the Malakand division.

Targeting black magicians bill' to crack down on witchcraft

ISLAMABAD: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Friday emphasized the need for implementation and awareness of the "Targeting Black Magicians Bill", a legislation aimed at preventing witchcraft and related activities in the country. Talking to a Private news channel, she explained that the bill, which has been passed by the parliament, stipulates that black magic practitioners shall face a 7-year imprisonment term and a fine of Rs. 1 million. Zehri stressed that the implementation of this law is crucial to protect vulnerable individuals, particularly women, who are often targeted by black magic practitioners. She called for a nationwide awareness campaign to educate people about the dangers of black magic and the legal consequences of practicing it. Zehri also called for strict enforcement of the law, saying that black magic practitioners should be brought to justice and punished according to the law. She emphasized that the implementation of the "Targeting Black Magicians Bill" is essential to create a safe and secure environment for all citizens, particularly in rural areas where black magic is prevalent. By pushing for the implementation of this law, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri aims to protect the rights of vulnerable individuals and promote a society free from superstition and fear.—DNA

IRSA releases 215,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 215,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 190,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tabela Dam was 1549.13 feet and was 151.13 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 105,300 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1228.50 feet, which was 180.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded each 20,000 cusecs.—APP

Pak envoy invites HK entrepreneurs to invest in belt and road projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi represented Pakistan at the 9th Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong under the theme "Building a Connected, Innovative, and Green Belt and Road" and invited Hong Kong entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan under BRI projects. The summit gathered international leaders, business representatives, and industry experts to discuss the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) future, emphasizing the importance of global partnerships and sustainable development in leveraging Hong Kong's unique strengths, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. The Ambassador of Pakistan expressed how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had transformed Pakistan's economic landscape over the past decade.

He explained that the project had created significant employment opportunities and added 8,000 MW to the national power grid, while developing 800 km of road networks and transmission lines. He further stated that CPEC's next phase would evolve into a multidimensional corridor focused on growth, innovation, and inclusiveness, aligned with Pakistan's "5Es" strategy, which centers on exports, digital transformation, climate change, energy, and equity. The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's burgeoning IT sector, noting its rapid expansion supported by a growing internet user base and cellular connections. He remarked that Pakistan's fintech sector, though nascent, presented substantial opportunities for Hong Kong-based firms to introduce digital banking platforms and

blockchain solutions. He emphasized that while the demand for innovative financial solutions is rising, fintech startups in Pakistan require venture capital investments, which Hong Kong is well-positioned to provide. The Ambassador also stressed Pakistan's commitment to sourcing 30% of its energy from renewables by 2030. He pointed out the untapped potential in hydropower, solar, and wind, inviting Hong Kong's financial institutions to collaborate in green energy projects. He also mentioned the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC as attractive locations for Hong Kong enterprises to explore early-bird investment opportunities, particularly in manufacturing and logistics. During his stay in Hong Kong, the Ambassador also interacted with Hong Kong leadership and media.

President congratulates Makhdoom Tahir

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday congratulated Makhdoom Tahir Rasheed on winning the bye-election in the NA-171 constituency of Rahim Yar Khan. The president, in a statement issued by the President House, expressed the hope that Makhdoom Tahir would come up to the expectations of the people of his constituency. He instructed him to give a special attention to the resolution of people's issues and their welfare. President Zardari expressed the hope that Makhdoom Tahir would duly represent the people of Rahim Yar Khan in the National Assembly, besides thanking the voters for reposing trust in him.

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Briefs

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) preparations in full swing

RAWALPINDI: Like other parts of the country, preparations to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) are in full swing in Rawalpindi Division as Milad-un-Nabi would be celebrated with religious fervor and reverence on September 17 (Tuesday). Roads, streets, and buildings in the division are being decorated by the faithful with colorful lights and bunting. Several programs are being chalked out to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) with great reverence and devotion. Different Naat committees in the city are organizing Naat competitions to celebrate 12 Rabi-ul-Awal. Rawalpindi city is beautifully being decorated and all the arrangements are being finalized to celebrate the birth of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in a befitting manner and with religious fervour. As a tradition, Milad-un-Nabi processions would be held in all areas of Rawalpindi city. Strict security arrangements would be made to ensure the security of the processions of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The Punjab government has directed all the district and tehsil administration officers to take strict security measures in this regard. In this connection the main procession of Milad-un-Nabi would start in the morning from Bunni Chowk Rawalpindi and after passing from Circular Road, Waris Khan, Murree Road, Committee Chowk, Iqbal Road, Fowara Chowk, Raja Bazaar, would end at central Jamia Mosque. Like every year, the government and religious organizations have planned several activities to celebrate the annual event. The district administration is finalizing a plan for the security of the faithful on Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The entry of tractor-trolleys, trucks, and other heavy vehicles would be prohibited at the route of the main procession. Ulama and people belonging to different sects of life have also been urged to play their role in maintaining law and order to foil the nefarious designs of the miscreants. The city district government would set up a control room for the surveillance of the processions and reviewing security arrangements.—APP

Federation to decide foreign policy with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader, Senator Irfan Siddiqui Friday said any foreign policy matters with Afghanistan have to be decided by the federation not province. Talking to media outside parliament house, Irfan Siddiqui criticized Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur for discussing foreign policy matters with the Afghan Counsel General and said that no province can negotiate with any country without obtaining permission from the federation. CM KP's statements regarding 'solo talks' with Afghanistan and his meeting with the Afghan Counsel General to discuss foreign policy was a new tradition being introduced by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf like many new traditions, he said while expressing his astonishment. "The PTI is setting a very dangerous precedent by trying to decide its own foreign policy with Afghanistan that no one did in the history which is highly deplorable", he said. He said that each province cannot make its own foreign policy. If Punjab shares border with India, can Punjab decide its own foreign policy with India? Can Sindh settle foreign affair matters with India or other countries on its own? Balochistan shares its borders with Afghanistan and Iran while Gilgit-Baltistan shares borders with China. How can each province make its own foreign policy, he questioned. In 1966 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presented six points but he also did not touch currency, foreign affairs and defence sections, saying these will remain with the federation, Irfan Siddiqui referred. "We also reserve the right to protest to the Afghanistan government that if they do any conspiracy with the provincial units without taking our federation and foreign office into confidence as it is a violation of international agreements and diplomatic etiquette"—APP

Climate compatible education is need of the hour : Romina

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Azerbaijan's envoy to Pakistan, emphasized his country's dedication to fostering global collaboration in the fight against climate change as the host of this year's COP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At a seminar on 'Climate-Compatible Education' hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad (IRS), Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, emphasized the crucial role of early education in shaping lifelong habits that could foster climate compatible lifestyles. She shared an inspiring anecdote about a four-year-old girl who, after hearing a speech on World Environment Day, pledged to avoid using plastic and pushed her entire family to do so as well. Ms. Alam emphasized the importance of advocacy campaigns, carbon credits, and integrating climate education from the Montessori level. She pointed out that, "If we plant the right seeds, we will reap the right fruit."

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, highlighted the pressing issue of climate change for the most vulnerable countries such as Paki-



stan, drawing attention to a World Bank and UNICEF studies indicating that elevated temperatures in classrooms can diminish student learning outcomes by as much as 25%. "This can also have adverse effects on heart and respiratory rates, as well as cognitive respons-

es", he asserted. Ambassador Saleem also underscored the significance of imparting knowledge to the youth about the impact of climate change on their lives and future so they could help in the fight against environment degradation. The IRS's pre-COP29

seminar brought together key national and international leaders and experts to discuss the crucial role of education in addressing the challenges of climate change. Punjul Nugraha, Director of the D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation, emphasized the sig-

nificance of COP29 as a pivotal platform for incorporating climate education into the global agenda, highlighting the potential impact of climate change on 1.2 billion children worldwide by 2050. He also urged integration of sustainability practices, climate science, and critical thinking across all educational levels. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Azerbaijan's envoy to Pakistan, emphasized his country's dedication to fostering global collaboration in the fight against climate change as the host of this year's COP. He expressed Azerbaijan's aspiration to set an example, emphasizing the establishment of climate-smart cities nationwide as part of their development plan. The ambassador also underscored the importance of well-educated populations in building resilience and effectively addressing climate-related challenges. Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, Executive Director at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

OEC seeking Japanese language instructor

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) intends to hire Japanese Language Instructor(s) on a contract basis for imparting training in Japanese Language to the Pakistani workforce who desire to get employment in Japan. An official source told APP here on Friday, that the language training should meet the standards of the Japanese Language Capability Test (JLCT) / Japanese Language, Proficiency Test (JLPT) to equip the trainee for levels N5 & N4 required for the job in Japan. He said that the having following qualifications and experience candidate would be eligible for the job of Japanese language instructor including being proficient in Japanese Language reading, writing, speaking, and typing skills. To develop a customized / module training course encompassing the specific requirements required for the Pakistani workforce to work in Japan.—APP

OEC offering paid internship to fresh graduates, postgraduates

Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline from the date of advertisement, will not be considered

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), facilitates manpower export and emigration under G-to-G arrangements. In alignment with the National Internship Program (NIP), OEC offers paid internships to fresh graduates and postgraduates, providing practical skills and professional experience in a dynamic environment. An official source told APP, he said that currently, internships are available in the following disciplines including Discipline & Positions, Management Sciences (01 Position), Information Technology / Computer Science (01 Position), Planning & Development (01 Position), Finance, Accounting, and Economics (01 Position). He said that the internship will initially be for six months, with the possibility of an extension for an additional six months based on performance and the fulfillment of program objectives. Internships will not exceed a total of 12 months (1 year), eligibility criteria & monthly remuneration. Applicants must hold a degree from an HEC-recognized university, and specific qualifications are required. For each department are, Graduate (14 Years of education) - Rs. 20,000, Post Graduate (16 Years of education) - Rs. 25,000, specialization after post-graduation (18 years of education) - Rs. 30,000. Candidates with degrees from HEC-recognized universities, obtained within the last two years, and with a minimum of 3.0 CGPA or 70% marks, will be eligible for the OEC Internship Program, provided they are in the specified disciplines. Applicants should be no older than 30 years, with age calculated as of the application deadline, Gender: Males/Females can apply. The general terms & conditions, Interns are responsible for arranging their laptops and transportation during the internship program. Interns are required to join the program on a full-time basis and adhere to OEC's prescribed rules and regulations, including official working hours and confidentiality requirements. Applicants must present original documents, along with attested copies of degrees/certificates from HEC-recognized institutions, at the time of the interview. If any information provided by the applicant is found to be false, their candidature will be canceled, and legal action may be taken at any stage. The competent authority reserves the right to cancel the recruitment process at any stage without providing a reason. No TA/DA will be provided for the written test or interview, Information provided in the application form will be verified upon an offer of appointment. Interested candidates can apply for the Internship Program by downloading the application form from OEC's official website: www.oec.gov.pk. Completed applications must be submitted to the OEC Head Office in Islamabad, addressed to the Deputy Director Admin, no later than September 19, 2024. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline from the date of advertisement, will not be considered.—APP

IMF moderating its position on Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that it is encouraging that the IMF consider approving a loan of seven billion dollars for Pakistan this month. He said the IMF's softening stance comes after two-billion-dollar loan guarantees, which may improve the overall economic situation. Due to strict measures, Mian

Zahid Hussain said, the economy is ready to take off, but political stability is necessary. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that political instability is currently the biggest obstacle to economic development. Volatility is considered necessary for the survival of a political party that always prefers politics of protest and unrest. He said that the people of Pakistan have made a big sacrifice to get a loan from the IMF. The cost of electricity has increased drastically, tax revenue has increased by a record forty percent, and other measures have also been taken. Due to these measures, Pakistan's financial condition has im-

proved, and its global credit rating has increased. Mian Zahid Hussain said that inflation has also reduced. Still, business activities will not resume until interest rates are reduced further, which is necessary to drive the economy and increase employment. Investment growth is only possible once interest rates fall further. He said that assurances of financial help from various sources have been given, which is why the IMF is ready to help Pakistan. The business leader said Pakistan's administrative structure has become an enormous burden. The country is overcrowded with ministries and departments, many of which are dysfunctional and unnecessary.

IPP capacity expansion plan likely to worsen circular debt

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The government aims to expand power generation capacity by adding 7,500 MW by 2034 and extending independent power producer (IPP) licenses, potentially worsening the circular debt crisis in the sector. In FY 2022-2023, capacity payments to 17 of the 100 IPPs with a combined capacity of 12,847 MW reached Rs472.12 billion, while heavy interest payments to nine notable IPPs amounted to Rs133.5 billion. In some cases, interest payments exceed both capacity and electricity purchase prices. With the current installed capacity of 45,000 MW surpassing peak demand of around

30,000 MW, further expansion and license renewals risk increasing financial obligations. Therefore, the government should adopt a balanced energy strategy, focusing on fiscal sustainability and reassessing both capacity expansion and IPP license renewals. These findings were part of a major research study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on IPPs presented during a session titled "Landscaping IPPs in Pakistan" held at IPS, Islamabad. The findings were presented by Muhammad Wali Farooqi, research officer IPS, while the session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Aameena Sohail, energy advocate and senior research associate IPS, Asad Mahmood,

renewable energy and energy efficiency expert, and Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary water and power. The study noted that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued a total of 232 generation licenses to IPPs, with only 100 of these commissioned by the Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB) contributing 24,958 MW to the national grid. Notably, 53% of this capacity, i.e., 13,106 MW, is provided by just ten IPPs, representing 30% of Pakistan's total capacity. Two major IPPs, KAPCO and HUBCO, will see their licenses expire in 2024 and 2025 respectively, potentially reducing capacity by 2,930 MW.

PARC introduced 10 high-yielding pulses seed varieties

ISLAMABAD: The Variety Evaluation Committee of the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) during the current year has approved ten high-yielding pulses varieties to boost the output of pulses in the country and reduce the reliance on imported leguminous vegetables. "The pulses play a crucial role in global food security and nutrition of the country, whereas Pakistan needs 1.56 million tons of pulses annually," said an official of the council. Talking to APP here on Friday, he said, "The country has become self-sufficient in mung production during 2021-22 which was 0.263 million tons against the total requirement of 0.180 million tons." "These ten high-yielding pulse varieties are poised to revolutionize the pulses output." "Now the country is focusing on increasing the production of other pulse crops, such as chickpea, lentil and mash bean," he added. Out of the recommended ten pulses varieties included five chickpeas and one mung bean variety of NIAB, Faisalabad, one lentils and one mung bean variety of Pulses Research Program, NARC, Islamabad, he said.—APP

PML-N MNA calls for end to political bickering

Mehdi argued that parliament is the rightful place for political parties to exchange ideas, present their perspectives, and work together to find solutions to the problems plaguing the country

ISLAMABAD: A member of the National Assembly from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Syed Sajid Mehdi Friday urged all political parties to put aside their differences and unite for the betterment of the country as collective action can only ensure stability, prosperity and a brighter future for the nation. In an exclusive talk with PTV news, Mehdi emphasized that the need for national unity has never been more crucial, as Pakistan faces numerous internal and external challenges. Mehdi argued that unity among political parties would not only strengthen Pakistan's democratic system but also enable the country to tackle its problems more effectively. He called on all parties to engage in constructive dialogue and work towards a shared vision for a prosperous and stable Pakistan. He urged both the government and opposition parties to utilize the parliament platform for the greater interest of the common people. He emphasized that instead of resorting to protests and agitation, political parties should engage in constructive debates and discussions within the parliamentary framework to address the pressing issues facing the nation. Mehdi argued that parliament is the rightful place for political parties to exchange ideas, present their perspectives, and work together to find solutions to the problems plaguing the country. By doing so, he believes that the government and opposition can ensure that the voices of the common people are heard and their interests are represented, he stressed. Mehdi's appeal aims to promote a culture of cooperation and collaboration in parliament, where political parties can put aside their differences and work towards the common goal of improving the lives of ordinary citizens.—DNA

ANF seizes 602 kg drugs; arrests two accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an intelligence-based operation managed to recover 602 kg drugs and arrested two drug smugglers, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that ANF busted an inter-provincial drug trafficking gang and arrested two accused. ANF intercepted a car on Sumbandri Motorway Interchange, Faisalabad and rounded up two drug smugglers. During the investigation, the accused revealed presence of the drugs in the house located in Azam Garden Hafizabad. On pinpointing of the accused, the ANF team raided the house and recovered over 357 kg hashish and over 244 kg opium. The accused used to smuggle drugs from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab and supply in different areas. The spokesman said that all-out efforts were being made to address the challenges of drug trafficking through all available means and make the country drug-free and secure the future of the youth. A case has been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation is underway to arrest other members of the group.—APP



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Seattle peace activist assassination

ANOTHER American has been killed in cold blood by the Israeli government. On September 6, Aysenur Eygi of Seattle, Washington, was killed by an American bullet fired by an Israeli sniper who stood on a roof overlooking a crowd of peaceful protesters. The young college graduate and peace activist was targeted and assassinated by the colonial-settler government of Benjamin Netanyahu. She died brutally, from a rifle shot to her head, underneath an olive tree, the international symbol of peace. Olive trees and blood conjure up images of the Jewish settlers of the occupied West Bank as they have continued to uproot Palestinian olive trees, which are more than just a source of food and income but represent the soul of the Palestinian people who seek peace and justice. Eygi had just arrived in the occupied West Bank to protest settlement expansion in the Palestinian village of Beita, near Nablus. Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank are illegal under international law and are viewed as such by the US. When Netanyahu took office in 2022, he said he had two goals: to expand the illegal settlements in the West Bank and to sign a normalization agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. While the agreement with the Saudis is off the table because of the current war on Gaza, settlement expansion is booming. Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israeli Police Minister, and Bezalel Smotrich, Israeli Finance Minister, are both from illegal settlements and hold sway over Netanyahu. Ben-Gvir and Smotrich are Jewish extremists, and they are the force that keeps Netanyahu's government coalition together. If Netanyahu were to sign a ceasefire in Gaza or stop illegal settlements in the West Bank, they would break the Netanyahu government, which would send Netanyahu to jail for his past conviction of corruption and fraud. Israeli occupation forces (IOF) said in a statement that their troops "responded with fire toward a main instigator of violent activity who hurled rocks at the forces and posed a threat to them." However, eyewitnesses and the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), which Eygi was part of, reject this claim of hurling rocks or making provocations. Haaretz journalist, Jonathan Pollak, was an eyewitness to the killing and held Eygi as she lay dying. Pollak is an activist with the group, Defend Palestine. He gave an interview to the BBC, saying he had seen "soldiers on the rooftop aiming." He described holding Eygi to attempt to stop the bleeding, and then "I looked up, there was a clear line of sight between the soldiers and where we were." The killing of Eygi reminds us of another American killed by "Israel", also from Washington and volunteering with the same group, ISM. Rachel Corrie left Washington in her senior year of college to be a peace activist in Rafah, Gaza. On March 16, 2003, she was run over and killed deliberately by an Israeli bulldozer driver demolishing the homes of Palestinians. The Israeli military investigation ruled her death an accident. Her parents, however, filed a civil lawsuit seeking accountability, but in 2015, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected their case. The United Nations is demanding a "full investigation" into the killing of Eygi, but the US stands passively by, impotent in the face of "Israel", regardless of how many US citizens are murdered.



US, China dialogue

THE United States finds itself at a critical juncture in its policy approach towards China. In a recent Foreign Policy article, former US congressman Mike Gallagher and former US deputy national security adviser Matt Pottinger urge the US to win against China. However, they fail to articulate a clear goal, offering only a nebulous assertion that the US must prevail in a new cold war. With trade between the two nations amounting to US\$758.4 billion in 2022, labelling the current tensions as a new cold war is a profound misjudgment. Unlike the original Cold War, the US and China should compete where necessary and cooperate where possible, presenting a more viable path forward for the world. This approach offers a coherent vision for all parties involved. In an era where the only certainty is uncertainty, Anglo-American economies face a pressing need to redistribute wealth towards the middle class. Meanwhile, the ominous spectre of war casts a long shadow. Far-right political parties are gaining traction in Europe, offering neither substantive programmes nor rigorous historical analysis and instead appealing to the basest of emotions. In his latest book *On Leadership: Lessons from the 21st Century*, former British prime minister Tony Blair astutely observes that "the bureaucracy's natural inclination is to be bureaucratic". As the US and China endeavour to cooperate on myriad issues while maintaining their respective stances in numerous disputes, it becomes evident that bureaucracy as a Track 1 dialogue is inherently limited in achieving desirable outcomes. Former US president Donald Trump, in his characteristic simplicity, holds the quaint notion that if he can strike deals with powerful leaders in other major countries, the bureaucrats will handle the rest. This is patently misguided. Leaders of major nations must transcend such simplistic paradigms and look beyond parochial national interests to guide the world towards a brighter future. The imperative for US-China collaboration is clear, but how should they do so? Current engagement between the two largest economies is faltering. Track 2 dialogues between retired government officials and other experts are indispensable in arresting the further deterioration of this relationship. They provide a platform for leaders to gain a deeper understanding of each other's conditions. As Leo Tolstoy famously wrote in *Anna Karenina*, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Paramount leaders in the East must come to terms with the reality that they cannot always trust their underlings, who are incentivised to be sycophants. Conversely, Western leaders are often ensnared by the whims of public opinion polls which stymie their ability to take necessary political actions. Consider the regulation of artificial intelligence. It is a painful example of how joint US-China initiatives are floundering. Following the meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden in San Francisco last year, a cadre of experts from both nations convened in Suzhou for a Track 2 dialogue on AI. This face-to-face interaction allowed them to candidly share their respective concerns. Despite such efforts, however, Microsoft earlier this year asked its China-based AI workers to move overseas while forging an alliance with the Emirati AI giant G42, to the detriment of Chinese interests. This sequence of events has engendered significant distrust.

Palestine (not Israel) has the right to defend itself

Ahmad Ibsais

There are two ways to go with this premise. If we accept it to be true, then we must accept that Palestinians have that right as well – especially in response to the countless massacres that have taken place over the last year. And if we don't accept it to be true, then only Palestinians have the undying right to self-defence in their ongoing struggle for liberation. However, in Western media & politics, this "right" always seems to be conditional when it comes to victims of imperialism. For years, the phrase "Axis of Evil" has been deployed as a propaganda tool to paint entire nations and peoples as irredeemable threats

THIS week's Al Mawasi massacre, which saw weapons of mass destruction deployed upon refugees sheltering in tents, is a testament to the fact that the world is increasingly getting used to Palestinian bloodshed. And it does nothing to stop it. Since October 7, we have heard of Israel's seemingly limitless "right to defend" itself. There are two ways to go with this premise. If we accept it to be true, then we must accept that Palestinians have that right as well – especially in response to the countless massacres that have taken place over the last year. And if we don't accept it to be true, then only Palestinians have the undying right to self-defence in their ongoing struggle for liberation. However, in Western media & politics, this "right" always seems to be conditional when it comes to victims of imperialism. For years, the phrase "Axis of Evil" has been deployed as a propaganda tool to paint entire nations and peoples as irredeemable threats. But within Palestine, where the fires of resistance have burned steadily for generations, the reality could not be more different. Daylight reveals the catastrophe in al Mawasi camp, designated 'humanitarian safe zone,' after Israeli air strikes on the tent encampment killed over 40 people and buried many more under sand and debris. The refugee camps in Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem are not outposts of terrorism or evil. They are the cradles of our resistance—a living testament to the enduring Palestinian spirit, one that refuses to be extinguished by decades of occupation, deprivation, and siege. While the world's gaze has often focused on Gaza as a symbol of resistance, Israel has been unable to subdue it despite relentless military campaigns. Now, the Zionist project has shifted focus to the occupied West Bank, targeting refugee camps in Jenin, destroying 80 percent of the city's streets, where the population has been deeply entrenched in the struggle for liberation since their formation. These camps, carved from the collective trauma of displacement, have evolved into strongholds of unity and defiance. The refugee camps in the West Bank, particularly in Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem, are not merely places where the displaced survive. They are incubators of the collective Palestinian consciousness, which continues to reject colonialism and the violence that sustains it. Historically, these camps have served as centres for political organising and education, despite Israel's attempts to dehumanise their inhabitants by portraying them as hotbeds of extremism. Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem have a long history of fierce resistance dating back to the First Intifada in 1987. These were the very places where protests against Israeli occupation were organised, where youth learned to resist even as they faced the harshest of crackdowns. The siege and destruction of

Jenin's refugee camp in 2002, during the Second Intifada, remains one of the most brutal chapters in the West Bank's resistance history. Yet, even amid such violence, the camp was never defeated. The people endured, rebuilt, and continued to resist. Today, in the face of obvious war crimes, United States President Joe Biden's administration has stated its unwavering support for Israel, qualifying its violence as "defence." This is where we must be cautious. Zionists and Western media classify the armed resistance of Palestinians as acts of "terrorism" or "extremism." Yet the actions against the Zionist regime are anything but. Resistance and to self-determination are our inalienable and enshrined rights. The narrative starts with the fact that before Israel, there were people there. According to this fact, there is no such thing as "Israeli defence," for the truth of this fact automatically makes them aggressors and gives Palestinians the right to resist by any means. According to Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Regulations, "a territory is occupied when it is placed under the authority of a hostile army." Yet, when it comes to Palestine this suddenly becomes too complex to understand. Since 1948, Palestine has been occupied by the expanding colonial state. Palestine has no army and Palestinians, no right to movement. Thus they are considered "Protected Persons" under the United Nations which defines occupation. No, Israel does not have a right to defend itself in Gaza. But the Palestinians do. The inhumane acts committed in the context of institutionalised oppression and domination of the Palestinians (arbitrary arrest, extermination, population transfer, etc.) give us the moral and legal right to armed resistance. In 1982, Resolution 37/43 of the UN General Assembly endorsed, unequivocally, the "inalienable right" of the Palestinian people to "self-determination, national independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty without outside interference." Furthermore, the same resolution reaffirms the legitimacy of the Palestinian people and our struggle for those rights by "all available means, including armed struggle." Although the extent of armed struggle is not mentioned, international standards assume that it covers the extent until liberation is reached. It is the basic human right of the Palestinians to resist being murdered. The resistance we are witnessing today is different from previous waves in key ways. While earlier periods of resistance were often fragmented, with different factions pursuing their own strategies, today there is greater unity among

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Different political factions, which once might have operated separately, are now working together in unprecedented ways. 'We are all Jenin together': West Bank city seeks normalcy after IDF's deadly raids. In Nablus, for example, local resistance units have emerged, consisting of people from various factions, including Fatah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. They have created an organised, cooperative network to push back against Israeli incursions. This collaboration is a direct response to Israel's intensifying aggression, but it is also fueled by a growing sense of common purpose across Palestinian society. Israel's tactics in the occupied West Bank are strikingly similar to those it has used in Gaza. The siege mentality, the demolition of homes, the targeted assassinations of resistance leaders—these are tools of occupation that have been wielded for decades. And yet, just as these measures have failed in Gaza, they are destined to fail in the West Bank. The resilience of the people in the West Bank, particularly in the refugee camps, is rooted in their profound connection to the land and their history of resistance. Despite efforts to erase Palestinian identity, it is precisely in places like Jenin and Nablus that this identity is most fiercely preserved. As Mahmoud Darwish would say "We have on this earth what makes life worth living." More than that, the international community, despite its failures, has grown increasingly aware of the injustice being perpetrated. Palestinian resistance is no longer seen in a vacuum. Hamas 'should never have been put on a terror list' In an interview with TRT World's Palestine Talks, political strategist and activist Ashish Prashar says that Palestinians never had a level playing field in peace negotiations. It is part of a global movement for justice and human rights, and the plight of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank is gaining attention in ways that Israel cannot control. The strength of the Palestinian resistance lies in its ability to mobilise not just on the ground, but across borders and through the solidarity of people everywhere who believe in the right to self-determination. In the end, Israel will fail in the West Bank for the same reasons it has failed in Gaza. Occupation, no matter how brutal, cannot erase the will of a people determined to be free. The refugee camps in Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem are not the fringes of Palestinian society—they are the heart of it. And from these cradles of resistance, the struggle will continue until Palestine is free.

The complexity of China-North Korea relations

Dr. Muhammad Akram zaheer



A nuclear war on the peninsula would have catastrophic consequences for all parties involved, including China. Such a conflict could lead to massive destruction, severe regional destabilization and a humanitarian disaster, all of which would be detrimental to Beijing's economic and security interests. A nuclear exchange would likely draw in other

THE relationship between China and North Korea is deeply intricate, shaped by a combination of historical ties, shared ideological foundations and strategic imperatives. The stability of the Korean Peninsula is a critical concern for Beijing, given its geographical proximity and the far-reaching security implications of any instability in the region. For China, the Korean Peninsula's stability is not only about maintaining regional peace but also about preserving its influence in Northeast Asia. At the heart of China's policy towards North Korea is the imperative to prevent a nuclear conflict. A nuclear war on the peninsula would have catastrophic consequences for all parties involved, including China. Such a conflict could lead to massive destruction, severe regional destabilization and a humanitarian disaster, all of which would be detrimental to Beijing's economic and security interests. A nuclear exchange would likely draw in other powers, particularly the United States and its allies, heightening tensions between China and the West and further complicating the global security landscape. However, Beijing faces the additional challenge of ensuring that North Korea, despite its belligerence and defiance of international norms, does not collapse. The imposition of the North Korean regime would likely result in a flood of refugees crossing the Chinese border, creating significant economic and humanitarian challenges for China. Such a scenario would also risk the unification of the Korean Peninsula under a government aligned with the United States, potentially bringing American military forces closer to China's borders. For these reasons, regime collapse in Pyongyang is viewed as a threat to China's strategic interests.

China's approach to North Korea is thus one of delicate balancing. On one hand, Beijing must curb Pyongyang's provocative actions, particularly its nuclear ambitions, which have drawn widespread international condemnation and sanctions. On the other hand, China must continue to offer substantial economic and diplomatic support to ensure the regime's survival. This support comes in the form of trade, food aid and energy supplies, all of which help sustain the North Korean economy and prevent the humanitarian crisis that could

follow regime collapse. Diplomatically, China has often acted as a mediator between North Korea and the international community, particularly in the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearizing the peninsula. Although Beijing has supported some international sanctions against Pyongyang, it has also advocated for dialogue and engagement, wary of isolating North Korea entirely. This underscores China's preference for stability over confrontation. At present, the divergent needs of North Korea and China shape their respective strategies and foreign policy agendas, revealing a complex and occasionally conflicting relationship between the two countries. North Korea, economically isolated and severely strained by international sanctions, finds itself in dire need of financial assistance, economic relief and humanitarian aid. The regime in Pyongyang remains heavily dependent on external support to sustain its economy, manage food shortages and provide essential services to its population. Given its geopolitical isolation, China remains one of North Korea's few avenues for economic and diplomatic assistance. On the other hand, China's current strategic priorities lie beyond simply supporting its North Korean neighbor. Beijing's foremost concern is to revitalize its own faltering economy, which has encountered significant challenges in recent years. To this end, China is keen to attract U.S. investment and strengthen economic relations with major global players, particularly the United States. This economic cooperation is vital for ensuring China's long-term growth and stability, especially as it navigates complex trade tensions and a shifting global economic landscape. Additionally, China recognizes the importance of cultivating stronger ties with South Korea, a key U.S. ally in the region. Beijing views improved

relations with Seoul as a stepping stone towards stabilizing its relationship with Washington and reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. A more stable relationship with South Korea, in China's view, could pave the way for progress on the broader issue of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. Beijing has long held a vested interest in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in its immediate neighborhood, understanding that North Korea's nuclear ambitions pose a direct threat to regional stability. A peaceful and denuclearized Korean Peninsula better serves China's geopolitical interests, as continued tensions only heighten the risk of military conflict and destabilization. However, North Korea's actions present a significant challenge to China's strategic goals. Pyongyang's frequent threats, missile tests and provocative behavior fuel regional insecurity and contribute to an arms race, prompting both South Korea and Japan to bolster their defense capabilities. Furthermore, these actions trigger a stronger U.S. military presence in the region, as Washington intensifies its security commitments to its East Asian allies. For China, this increased U.S. military presence is undesirable, as it threatens to undermine Beijing's influence and security in the region. In this context, Beijing finds itself in a delicate balancing act. While it seeks to maintain its historical ties with North Korea, it must also navigate the complexities of its broader strategic interests, which include stabilizing its relationship with the United States and ensuring regional security. What China does not need is for North Korea to exacerbate tensions by making threats, conducting missile tests, or escalating the regional arms race. Such actions are counterproductive to Beijing's objectives and complicate its efforts to foster a more stable and cooperative regional environment.

Briefs

COAS reiterates resolve...

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peace achieved with nation's great sacrifice would be maintained at all costs. Sacrifice of our martyrs strengthen our resolve to fight with utmost dedication and spirit of sacrifice. COAS lauded the contributions being made by Police and LEAs in KPK. "Pak Army will continue to provide all out support to KPK Police and other LEAs in enabling them to perform their duties in newly merged districts". COAS emphasised the need of continued capacity building of LEAs. COAS also appreciated the support of local population in assisting security forces, noting that their positive role is essential in sustaining peace in the area. Earlier upon arrival, COAS laid the wreath at Yadgar e Shuhada and was received by Corps Commander Peshawar.

2 terrorists killed in DG Khan...

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taking advantage of the darkness," the statement said. The CTD also recovered explosives, two rifles, bullets, and a hand grenade from the hideouts of the militants, the statement said, adding that they had devised a plan to target important installations and conduct terrorist activities on a large scale in the province. It further said that the process of identifying the terrorists was under way, while further investigation continued and a search operation was launched for the arrest of the fleeing terrorists. The spokesperson also said that CTD Punjab was "diligently pursuing its goal of a safe Punjab" and was "determined to root out the scourge of terrorism."

US continues 'sanctions' on suppliers...

FROM PAGE 01
act against proliferation and associated procurement activities of concern, wherever they occur," Miller said. The embassies of China and Pakistan in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Meanwhile, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, when asked to comment on the report, said they were ascertaining the details. Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington, said: "China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction that have no basis in international law or authorisation of the UN Security Council." China will "firmly protect" Chinese companies' and individuals' rights and interests, Liu said.

Pakistan committed...

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present in the meeting. The speaker further highlighted that the Parliament had consistently undertaken initiatives to safeguard the rights and welfare of all Pakistanis. Ayaz Sadiq acknowledged the significant role that minorities play in Pakistan's national development and prosperity. He reiterated that the Parliament was committed to promoting religious harmony and had ensured full representation of minority communities in legislative body.

Imran Khan blames...

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before ruling against Bushra Bibi. The PTI chairman welcomed Maulana Fazlur Rehman's statement against extending tenures for military and judicial officials, expressing relief that JUIF chief does not support such extensions. He also criticised Nawaz Sharif for what he said was an attack on the judiciary carried out by allegedly offering extensions. Imran specifically targeted Supreme Court Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa over the extension issue. Imran said that Pakistan's lack of foreign investment compared to countries like Singapore, where \$140 billion has been invested, is due to the absence of rule of law in Pakistan.

Junaid Chatta leads efforts to revive hockey in Pakistan

Junaid Chatta is optimistic about the future of hockey in Pakistan, as he believes that European clubs are beginning to show interest in collaborating with Pakistani teams

DNA

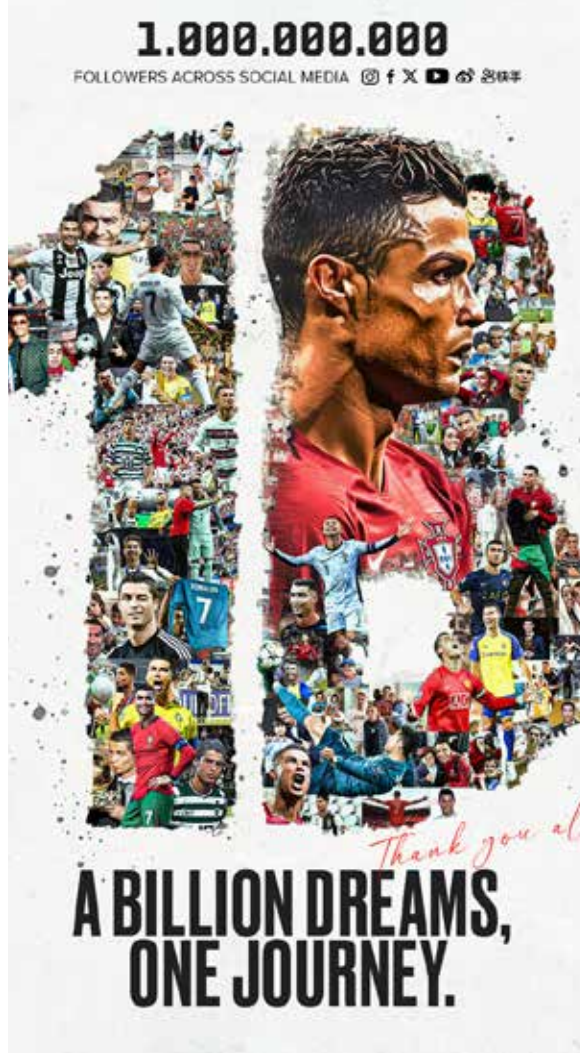
ISLAMABAD: Junaid Chatta, a dedicated individual working towards reviving hockey and international sports activities in Pakistan, recently attended the International Sports Conference in Dusseldorf, Germany. As the Chief Executive of What's Goal Pakistan, Junaid Chatta aimed to engage in detailed discussions with German football and hockey professionals to seek their support and collaboration. During the conference, Junaid Chatta had the opportunity to meet with Moritz Forste, the CEO of Powwow Germany and a renowned hockey world champion and Olympic gold medalist. Moritz Forste expressed his full support for Junaid Chatta

and What's Goal Pakistan, which was greatly appreciated by Junaid Chatta. Junaid Chatta is optimistic about the future of hockey in Pakistan, as he believes that European clubs are beginning to show interest in collaborating with Pakistani teams. He anticipates the arrival of European hockey clubs and junior teams in Pakistan, and envisions European players participating in games within the country in the near future. In addition to focusing on hockey, Junaid Chatta is also committed to supporting national players in various sports by providing coaching and training facilities both domestically and internationally. He is determined to enhance the opportunities available to Pakistani athletes and elevate the standard of sports in the country.



Ronaldo thanks fans after amassing a billion followers

WEB DESK



LONDON: The Portuguese striker took to social media to thank his fans who made it possible. "We've made history - 1 BILLION followers! This is more than just a number - it's a testament to our shared passion, drive, and love for the game and beyond," he wrote. The Al-Nassr captain said he has always appreciated those who supported him during his rise to stardom. "From the streets of Madeira to the biggest stages in the world, I've always played for my family and for you, and now 1 billion of us stand together." He shared a collage of photos depicting his career with clubs such as Manchester United, Juventus, Real Madrid, and his current side Al-Nassr. But the biggest image is that of the legend wearing the iconic ruby red jersey of Portugal, who he led to a European championship win in 2016. The artwork also includes his family and selfies with fans over the years. "You've been with me every step of the way, through all the highs and the lows," Ronaldo wrote. "This journey is our journey, and together, we've shown that there are no limits to what we can achieve." The player

has 639 million followers on Instagram, 170 million on Facebook, and 113 million on X, formally known as Twitter, and 60 million on the video platform YouTube. He also has another 9 million on the Chinese network Weibo and has a presence on Kuaishou. In August, the star shattered the YouTube record for the fastest-growing channel, achieving a milestone just hours after its launch. "Thank you for believing in me, for your support, and for being part of my life. The best is yet to come, and we'll keep pushing, winning, and making history together," he wrote. In another remarkable milestone, Ronaldo became the first player in football history to score 900 goals, for club and country combined. The player achieved the feat a week ago with a tap-in against Croatia playing in the Nations League. The footballing legend moved to Saudi Arabia in 2022 and has made even more fans in the Kingdom after his transfer to the Riyadh-based Al-Nassr, who have embraced him as one of their own. He broke the record for the number of goals scored in a season by a player in Saudi Arabia's top league, netting 35 in the 2023/2024 contest.

Gary Kirsten arrives in Lahore to monitor players

Head coach is assigned to build strong squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten on Friday arrived in Lahore to monitor the performance of the players ahead of the Champions Trophy. Kirsten will be in attendance during the matches of Champions One-Day Cup scheduled at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad. The head coach has been assigned to build a strong squad by picking good players for the upcoming Champions Trophy - beginning from February 2025. Earlier, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi stated that this domestic tournament is a preparation for the Pakistan players ahead of the mega event of Champions Trophy. During his trip, Kirsten will be participating in the connection camp organised by the PCB to discuss the board's plan for the near future. It is worth noting that the Markhors clinched victory against Panthers in the inaugural match of Champions One-Day Cup on Thursday by 160 runs. Following the first match, the Stallions and Lions are set to make an impact in the second fixture of the tournament on Friday at 3pm in Faisalabad. Meanwhile, Pakistan's red-ball format head coach Jason Gillespie will be landing in Lahore on September 22. The match scheduled on September 13 between the Stallions and the Lions is mentored by the former legends of Pakistan, with the Lions led by Waqar Younis while the Stallions by Shoaib Malik. Upcoming matches
September 13: Stallions vs Lions
September 14: Dolphins vs Panthers
September 15: Stallions vs Markhors
September 16: Lions vs Panthers
September 17: Dolphins vs Markhors
September 19: Dolphins vs Stallions
September 20: Lions vs Markhors
September 21: Panthers vs Stallions
September 22: Dolphins vs Lions

Afg vs NZ: Test abandoned without a ball bowled

NEW DELHI: Afghanistan's one-off Test against New Zealand was abandoned on Friday without a ball being bowled after rain washed out the fifth and final day in India's Greater Noida Stadium. The Test became the eighth match in the format's history to be abandoned for all five days. The toss was delayed on the first and second day as the day was spent waiting for the field to dry due to lack of proper facilities available for such a condition. The ground staff was unable to dry the field without modern facilities even though there was no rain in Noida throughout the day. In this condition, the grounds men dragged out tarpaulin to cover areas of the pitch in anticipation of more rain, while others held electric fans over some of the worst wet patches on Tuesday. Ground staff also dug up a wet patch - in the cover-point and mid-wicket region - and were filling it with dry soil and fresh turf. In this regard, the venues were heavily criticised by the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The board official said: "We raised concerns over these issues and they assured us that these issues will be addressed." The board further stated that this match is part of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test Championship and witnessing the mismanagement, it has decided that the team will not play any match at this venue in future. However, the ACB later reversed their position on the choice of Noida as the venue. This decision, as reported by Indian media, appears to be aimed at maintaining cordial relations with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). - Agencies

Champions One-Day Cup: Markhors beat Panthers

Panthers fail to overcome onslaught of Markhors' bowlers as their batting line-up toppled quickly

SPORTS DESK

FAISALABAD: The Panthers lost the opening game of the Champions One Day Cup against the Markhors by 160 runs at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Thursday. The winners had set up a 348-run total in the first innings. Chasing the target, the Panthers could not overcome the onslaught of the opposing teams' bowlers as their batting line-up toppled after pacer Naseem Shah dismissed opener Abdul Bangalzal, who could add just four runs to the scoreboard in the 2.3 over. Bangalzal was soon followed by fellow opener, Saim Ayub who scored 20 runs. Things further soured for the Panthers when Azan Awais was run out after scoring a single run. Naseem continued his fiery pace bowling for the Markhors and got the wickets of Usman Khan and Haider Ali after they scored eight and two runs, respectively. With the dismissal of Haider, the Panthers had lost five of their batters on 41 runs in the 8.3 overs. Even the target chasing side's captain, Shadab Khan could not save his team from a horrendous

defeat as he too fell to Akif Javed after scoring just four runs. Mubasir Khan and Amad Butt tried to stick around for their team as the two batters put up a 59-run stand. However, Mubasir had to return to the dugout as he was caught behind by Mohammad Rizwan on the delivery of Akif after scoring 33 runs. Amad was then aided by tail-ender Usama Mir but his support could not last long and he too returned to the pavilion on the ball of Shahnawaz Dahani. He scored 20 off 21 deliveries. Amad stood strong, kept striking the ball and batted marvelously as he scored the most runs (72 runs on 84 balls with nine fours and three sixes) out of his fellow team members. However, he was also dismissed by Zahid Mehmood in the 33.4 over and a few balls later the Panthers were bundled out for 187 runs as Muhammad Hasnain's wicket fell. Earlier, Markhors' Kamran Gulam had smacked his seventh List A century as Markhors scored 347/6. Gulam batted with a strike rate of over 100 to ensure Markhors stamp their command after they were asked to bat first by Panthers' captain Shadab Khan. In a 102-ball knock of 115, he stroked three sixes and 12 fours.

Parliamentary secy info visits PRD Rawalpindi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Punjab Shazia Rizwan visited Public Relations Department Rawalpindi during which she was given a detailed briefing about the performance of the department and under construction the Information Complex Rawalpindi. Director Information Rawalpindi Syed Ittikhar Ali Shah and officers of the department were also present on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Shazia Rizwan said that it is the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to align information and culture with modern demands and a comprehensive strategy has been made to strengthen DGPR, its field offices

and arts councils across the province. She said that the

protection and promotion of the great and historical

culture of Punjab is the main priority of Chief Min-

ister Maryam Nawaz and 'we will preserve the rich

culture of Punjab and make people aware of it'.



Shazia Rizwan said that a comprehensive policy is being prepared for the promotion of culture under which religious tourism and culture will be promoted so as to strengthen the environment of tolerance, inter-faith harmony and brotherhood. She said that she is getting awareness of the problems by visiting all the arts councils of Punjab. Shazia Rizwan made a detailed inspection of the under-construction Information Complex Rawalpindi and expressed her satisfaction over the quality of work. She directed the timely completion of the project. On arrival at the DPR Rawalpindi office, officers and staff welcomed the Provincial Parliamentary Secretary and presented a bouquet.

Govt all set to introduce amendment

FROM PAGE 01

In the case of high court judges, the retirement age will be increased to 65. Despite being tight-lipped on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, the incumbent leadership left no stone unturned to secure the numbers required to ensure its passage from parliament. "We are expecting to get the magic number any time and as soon as it is achieved, the constitutional amendment will be introduced and passed by parliament," it added. However, a day earlier, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) stopped its Senate members from any kind of voting on the proposed constitutional amendment. In a letter to the members, JUIF parliamentary leader Kamran Murtaza said that nothing is clear regarding the constitutional amendment. Therefore, no voting should be done until the written decision of the party leadership is there. Earlier, speculations about Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa's extension gained attraction after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought an early issuance of notification regarding the next top judge last month. On September 10, CJP Isa termed his recent "off the record" conversation with journalists misinterpreted and clarified that he would not accept any "individual specific" proposal on fixing the tenure of the country's top judge. Meanwhile, the PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja while talking to media said that their members are being coerced to vote for the amendment. He further said that even pressure is being mounted on the PTI lawmakers.

IHC declares PTI lawmakers' physical...

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Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz announced the reserved verdict after hearing the both parties' arguments. The development comes after the police on September 9 arrested a number of PTI leaders in several cases after the party's powershow in Islamabad last week. The cases include the reported attack on police at Chonghi No 26 - which turned into a battleground as PTI workers and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) clashed after the formers deviated from routes leading to Sangjani, venue of the party's public gathering.

ADB approves \$320 for KP

FROM PAGE 01

to incorporate climate-resilient design, road safety enhancement, and sustainable maintenance practices. "Road transport is both a lifeline to the people and a key component of socioeconomic development in Pakistan. This vital infrastructure project will reduce travel time, lower transportation costs, and increase access to economic opportunities for millions of residents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "By providing better access to markets and services, we are empowering local communities and driving inclusive economic growth in one of Pakistan's most underserved regions," Zhukov added.

Bilawal says Governor...

FROM PAGE 01

him about the worsening law and order situation in the province, according to sources. While the KP government "fails to restore peace and security" in the province, a rift between the provincial and federal government also arose following CM Ali Amin Gandapur's proposal of bypassing the Centre and hold direct talks with Afghanistan to address terrorism concerns for lasting peace in the restive bordering regions. The sources said that PM Shehbaz, after KP governor's call resolved to take immediate steps with the federal interior minister and Kundli - who is a PPP leader - to ensure peace in KP.

Briefs

Colombia's president slams Elon Musk

BOGOTA: Colombian President Gustavo Petro lashed out Thursday against US billionaire Elon Musk, the owner of the social media network X, accusing him of being pro-Nazi and saying that "at any time" he could close his account on the platform, which has become his favorite forum for expressing his opinion on issues in Colombia and the world. "Now, networks, having demonstrated their alternative capacity around the world, are being bought by the richest people in the world, as they did in Colombia. Now, where I speak, there is a man who is pro-Nazi, Elon Musk," said Petro in a speech given at a meeting of alternative, community and digital media in Armenia, the capital of the Quindío department. "At any moment he closes my account, then the thesis of (former Chilean dictator Augusto) Pinochet (of) silence before barbarism applies," he added.

In recent months, Musk has not shied away from sharing his views on politics, often targeting US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and the Brazilian government. The 53-year-old businessman has endorsed former President and Republican nominee Donald Trump in the upcoming US presidential election and has repeatedly attacked Democratic candidate Harris. He also had a public spat with Maduro, who was declared the winner of last month's disputed presidential election.—Agencies

Typhoon Yagi kills 36 more in Vietnam

ISTANBUL: With 36 more deaths in the past 24 hours, the death toll from Typhoon Yagi has risen to 233 in Vietnam, the country's Department of Disaster Prevention and Control reported on Friday. The storm has left 103 people missing and 823 injured, the department said, adding that Lao Cai province was hit hardest, accounting for 98 dead and 81 missing people. Over 130,000 people have been evacuated, while 136,705 houses were damaged. The typhoon also ravaged infrastructure, toppling telecommunication poles and uprooting trees in urban areas. Agricultural losses were severe, with more than 200,000 hectares of rice fields and nearly 40,000 hectares of crops flooded. Additionally, over 1.7 million poultry perished in the disaster. Transportation networks were significantly impacted, with railway services disrupted due to damaged tracks and flooding. International aid efforts are underway, with Australia already providing eight tons of relief goods.—APP

WHO prequalifies 1st vaccine against mpox

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday announced the MVA-BN vaccine as the first vaccine against mpox to be added to its prequalification list. The UN agency said in a statement that the prequalification approval is expected to facilitate timely and increased access to this product in communities with urgent need, to reduce transmission and help contain the outbreak. It added that WHO's assessment for prequalification is based on information submitted by the manufacturer, Bavarian Nordic A/S, and review by the European Medicines Agency, the regulatory agency of record for this vaccine. "This first prequalification of a vaccine against mpox is an important step in our fight against the disease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa, and in future," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "We now need urgent scale up in procurement, donations and rollout to ensure equitable access to vaccines where they are needed most, alongside other public health tools, to prevent infections, stop transmission and save lives," Tedros urged.—Agencies

Pak-China to strengthen trade ties through investment moot

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi Inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: The Pakistan Pavilion at the prestigious China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 was inaugurated today by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, accompanied by Mr. Zhang Yanqing, Deputy Secretary-General of the People's Government of Pingdingshan City. CIFTIS, recognized as one of the world's largest platforms for trade in services, presents a unique opportunity for countries to showcase their strengths in the services sector and engage in global trade relations. This year's Pakistan Pavilion sets itself apart by adopting a public-private partnership model in its setup and operations. The aim is not only to inform visitors of the vast investment opportunities in Pakistan but also to offer a practical understanding of how businesses can establish and grow within the country. The

pavilion features industrial park operators and development authorities, offering attendees direct access to valuable expertise on infrastructure and investment-ready environment in Pakistan. Welcoming the attendees, Ambassador Hashmi highlighted 13 priority sectors for investment in Pakistan, ranging from manufacturing and technology to energy, agriculture, and infrastructure development. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of Pakistani organizations participating in CIFTIS, including the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA), Green Pakistan Initiative, Dhabeji Economic Zone, Allama Iqbal SEZ, National Bank of Pakistan, and others, which are pivotal in fostering B2B relationships between Pakistan and China. The Ambassador stated that as part of Pakistan's efforts to further economic engagement with China, the Embassy will also host the Pakistan Investment



Conference: Together for a Shared Future during CIFTIS. The conference, along

side panel discussions, interactive sessions, and B2B meetings, is expected

to serve as a powerful platform for Pakistani and Chinese businesses to explore

new avenues of cooperation and develop meaningful partnerships.

Palestine warns of escalating incitement against Al-Aqsa

Ministry calls for international intervention as extremist groups intensify provocations and threats toward Islam's third holiest site

JERUSALEM: The Palestinian Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs issued a warning Thursday about rising Israeli incitement targeting Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site. The ministry responded to a video released by the Israeli extremist group "Temple Mount Activists" that depicted Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock engulfed in flames, with captions suggesting the destruction could happen soon. The ministry emphasized that the increasing hatred and threats toward Islamic holy sites are now more apparent than ever. It also noted that these

threats, rooted in myths and falsehoods, are becoming more openly declared. They pointed out the political and security backing for these actions from the Israeli government and its security forces, which protect these extremists during their regular incursions into Al-Aqsa. The ministry called on the international community to intervene and stop the escalating provocations supported by the Israeli government. It also urged the people of Jerusalem to remain vigilant and maintain a constant presence at the mosque to counter any potential plans by extremists. Earlier in the

week, the ministry reported that Israeli settlers had stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque 21 times in August. The video shared by the "Temple Mount Activists" showed a large fire near the Dome of the Rock, accompanied by captions referencing a forthcoming victory. The group advocates for building a temple in place of Al-Aqsa and promotes regular incursions by extremists. Occasionally, Israeli ministers from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, visit the mosque, despite

strong criticism from the international community. In August, Ben-Gvir called for Jews to be allowed to pray in Al-Aqsa and establish a synagogue in its courtyards. There has been a rise in Israeli extremists conducting religious rituals and other provocative actions at the mosque in recent weeks. Palestinians accuse Israel of intensifying efforts to Judaize occupied East Jerusalem, including Al-Aqsa, and erase its Arab and Islamic identity, while insisting on East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. Israeli incursions into Al-Aqsa are driven by far-right groups openly pushing to replace the mosque with a temple.

Peace 'only way out' of Gaza, Ukraine wars

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL: Promoting peace talks for political solutions in Gaza and Ukraine is the "only and the fundamental way out," China's Defense Minister Dong Jun said Friday. He was addressing China's top security gathering, known as Xiangshan Forum, which is attended in Beijing by some 1,800 guests from over 100 nations. Countries must put their destiny "in their own hands," Dong told the summit, themed "promoting peace for a shared future." "To resolve hotspot issues such as the crisis in Ukraine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, promoting peace and negotiation is the only way out," he added. The Israeli war on Gaza has killed over 41,000 Palestinians since Oct. 7, while

more than 11,000 civilians have been killed in Ukraine since Russia launched its "special military operation" against Kyiv in February 2022. "There is no winner in war and conflict, and there is no way out of the obsession confrontation," Dong stressed. "The more acute the conflict, the more we cannot give up dialogue and negotiation. The end of any conflict is reconciliation," said the Chinese defense minister, who is hosting the forum. It is the first time in five years that a Chinese defense minister has attended the forum in person since the world was overwhelmed by COVID-19 in 2020. China also saw an abrupt ousting of Dong's predecessor Li Shangfu last year. Nearly 20 defense ministers, including those from Vietnam, Cambodia.

Senegal's president dissolves parliament

KIGALI: Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye dissolved the country's opposition-led National Assembly on Thursday in a bid to break the tension between the legislature and the executive branch. In a national address, Faye said snap elections will be conducted on Nov. 17 this year. "By virtue of the powers conferred on me by Article 87 of the Constitution, and after consulting the Constitutional Council on the right date, the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly, on the expediency, I dissolve the National Assembly," he said. The move came six months after Faye was elected under an opposition platform. He said the opposition-dominated legislature had made it hard for him to carry out the "systemic transformation" he promised during campaigns. He asked voters to give his Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (PASTEF) party a mandate. The outgoing house, elected in 2022, was dominated by members of former President Macky Sall's Benno Bokk Yakaar (United in Hope) coalition. Tension between the executive and the legislature was reported recently after opposition lawmakers cancelled a budget debate and threatened to table a motion to censure the government. The Benno Bokk Yakaar parliamentary group criticized the dissolution, saying it was aimed at avoiding the submission of a motion to censure the government by the parliamentary majority. In a statement, the group accused President Faye and Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko of "manipulating institutions to serve their own political interests." "This dissolution is a blatant attempt to silence the parliamentary opposition and avoid any democratic debate on the management of the country," said Abdou Mbow, president of the majority parliamentary group.—Agencies

Boeing faces potential strike

NEW YORK: Boeing workers were voting Thursday on a new contract that has sparked discontent among manufacturing staff, putting the embattled aviation giant on the defensive as it hopes to avert a crippling strike. The union's roughly 33,000 Seattle-area workers are casting separate votes on whether to accept the contract and whether to strike, with the polls scheduled to close Thursday evening. A strike could begin after midnight Friday, effectively shutting two major manufacturing plants in the Puget Sound region. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) in Seattle has a history of striking, with the most recent stoppage in 2008 lasting 57 days. Led by new CEO Kelly Ortberg, Boeing had hoped a 25-percent wage hike over four years and a commitment to invest in the Puget Sound region would avert a costly strike. But while the preliminary contract won an endorsement from leaders of IAM District 751.—APP

US shifts aircraft carrier away from Middle East: Pentagon

Theodore Roosevelt has departed and begun its transit to Indo-Pacific command area of operations, says spokesman

WASHINGTON: One of two US aircraft carriers deployed to the Middle East to deter Iran from attacking Israel departed the region, the Pentagon said Thursday. "US forces in the region include, but aren't limited to, an amphibious ready group and marine expeditionary unit, multiple destroyers, fighter aircraft and carrier strike group presence," Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder told reporters. "Of note, following a period of dual carrier coverage by the Theodore Roosevelt CSG (Carrier Strike Group) and the Abraham Lincoln CSG in the CENTCOM region, the Theodore Roosevelt has departed and begun its transit into the Indo-Pacific command area of operations." Last month, the Pentagon announced that the US will deploy additional military assets to the Middle East ahead of possible retaliation by Iran against Israel for the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the capital Tehran in late July. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, equipped with F-35C fighters, to accelerate transit to the Central Command area of responsibility, adding to capabilities already provided by the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group. Additionally, he ordered the USS Georgia (SSGN 729) guided missile submarine to the Central Command region. According to Ryder, the Georgia transited to the CENTCOM area of responsibility. "We are going to take any potential threats very seriously. And again, Iran has indicated that they want to retaliate against Israel, and so we're going to continue to take that threat very seriously and we're going to continue to maintain a robust presence in the Central Command and European Command AORs," Ryder said when asked whether the threat from Iran to Israel is less than it was a month ago. The US remains intensely focused on working with regional partners to deescalate tensions and deterring a wider regional conflict, he said. Tensions are running high in the Middle East following Haniyeh's assassination. Hours earlier, Israel killed Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut. Iran has vowed "harsh punishment" for Israel for Haniyeh's killing on Iranian soil. The escalation comes amid an ongoing Israeli offensive against the Gaza Strip which has killed more than 41,100 Palestinians following an attack on Oct. 7 last year by Hamas that killed 1,139 Israelis.—DNA

UK to change travel entry requirements

LONDON: The UK government this week announced an overhaul in non-visa entry requirements for visitors from next year. The Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) scheme is similar to the ESTA system in the United States. The interior ministry announced that all visitors who do not require a visa to travel to Britain will need an ETA from April 2, 2025. "Everyone wishing to travel to the UK — except British and Irish citizens — will need permission to travel in advance of coming here. "This can be either through an ETA or an eVisa," the Home Office said in a statement. It is a travel permit digitally linked to the traveler's passport and is for people entering or transiting the UK without a visa or legal residence rights. It costs £10 (12 euros, 13 dollars) and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires — whichever is sooner. Eligibility is based on nationality and suitable travelers can apply using the UK ETA app. Previously, most visitors could arrive at a British airport with their passport and enter the country without a visa. But that began to change in November last year when the then Conservative government introduced the ETA, starting with Qatari nationals. The scheme was extended earlier this year and currently includes citizens of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Children and babies from these countries need an ETA too. Interior minister Yvette Cooper announced on Tuesday that all nationalities except Europeans can apply for an ETA from November 27. They will need one travel to Britain from January 8 next year. The scheme will then extend to eligible Europeans, who will require an ETA from April 2, 2025. They will be able to apply from March 5. Eligible travelers will need one even if they are just using the UK to connect to an onward flight abroad.—APP

Zelensky says will meet Biden 'this month'

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Friday that he will meet US leader Joe Biden "this month" to present his "victory plan" on how to end two and a half years of war with Russia. The announcement came as Biden is due to discuss whether or not to let Kyiv fire Western-provided long-range missiles into Russia with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "My meeting with President Joe Biden is planned," Zelensky said at an international conference in Kyiv. "I will present him with a victory plan." He gave no specific details on how to end more than 30 months of fighting, saying only that his proposal will involve "a system of interconnected solutions that will give Ukraine enough power — enough to put this war on a course to peace." Kyiv has been pressing the West for a green light to use Western weapons to strike into Russia, saying that it could change the course of the war.—DNA

N. Korea releases images of uranium enrichment facility

SEOUL: North Korea released images of its uranium enrichment facility for the first time on Friday, showing leader Kim Jong Un touring it as he called for more centrifuges to boost his nuclear arsenal. The country, which conducted its first nuclear test in 2006 and is under rafts of UN sanctions for its banned weapons programmes, has never publicly disclosed details of its uranium enrichment facility. Such facilities produce highly enriched uranium — which is needed to produce nuclear warheads — by spinning the original material in centrifuges at high speeds. Kim toured the Nuclear Weapons Institute and the "production base of weapon-grade nuclear materials," the official Korean Central News Agency reported, without giving the location of the facility or the date of the visit.—APP

President Pezeshkian calls for Muslim unity

We must all join hands to restore the past glory and dignity of Muslims," said Pezeshkian who started his official three-day visit to the neighboring country on Wednesday

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for unity among Muslim nations, noting that the benefits of enemies lie in discord among Muslims.

"If we stand together, our capacity for economic, scientific, and cultural progress will increase significantly and this is why our unity is undesirable to our enemies, and their benefit lies in our discord and division," he said on Friday while addressing a host of cultural, religious, and academic elites in Basra, Iraq. "Therefore, any mes-



sage or voice that causes division among

Muslims is a satanic message," he added.

"We must all join hands to restore the past glory and dignity of Muslims," said Pezeshkian who started his official three-day visit to the neighboring country on Wednesday. "If we truly act as brothers, can Israel massacre Muslims every day?" he asked, referring to the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza where the regime's attacks have killed at least 41,118 Palestinians and injured more than 95,000 others since October last year. Europeans fought each other fiercely for over 100 years, but today they have managed to reduce border restrictions, con-

nect their roads, and establish a common currency while maintaining national sovereignty, bringing them closer together, he said. "Why can't we Muslims, in the same way, facilitate interactions and exchanges among the people of our Muslim countries, who are truly brothers, while preserving national sovereignty?" Iran seeks to engage in brotherly and sincere relations with its neighbors and Islamic countries, he highlighted. The remarks come as Muslims observe "Islamic Unity Week" this year, amid the ongoing plight of Palestinians in Gaza. Shia Muslims be-

lieve the 17th day of Rabi al-Awwal, which falls on September 21 this year, marks the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Meanwhile, Sunni Muslims celebrate his birthday on the 12th day of the month, which is September 12 this year. The period between these dates is annually celebrated as Unity Week. The late Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini, established this occasion as Islamic Unity Week in the 1980s. Before the President's speech at the ceremony, two prominent figures from the Basra tribes presented him with an Arabic cloak as a gift.

Briefs

Indian SC grants bail to Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court granted bail on Friday to opposition leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a graft case, paving the way for his release almost six months after he was arrested. Kejriwal's release is expected to boost the morale of his decade-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as it will allow him to campaign in regional elections next month in the northern state of Haryana, where AAP is trying to make inroads, and in Delhi early next year. Kejriwal was first taken into custody in March by India's financial crime-fighting agency, weeks before the country's national elections, in relation to alleged irregularities in the capital city's liquor policy. Although he was granted bail in that case in July, he remained in detention due to his arrest a month previously by the federal police in a graft case related to the same policy. Kejriwal, 55, and AAP deny the allegations and say the cases are "politically motivated". Ordering Kejriwal's release, Justice Surya Kant said that the issue related to "liberty" and "prolonged incarceration" could not be justified. - Agencies

No province can negotiate with another country

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui says no province can hold talks with another country without the federal government's approval. Speaking to media outside Parliament House on Friday, he criticised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister for meeting the Afghan consul general, calling it a violation of the constitution. He said forming foreign policy was solely the federal government's prerogative. Siddiqui also warned against the dangerous precedents being set, especially regarding border agreements and handling foreign relations without proper authority, which he termed unacceptable.

Court orders confiscation of Zulfi's properties

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court of Islamabad on Friday ordered confiscation of properties owned by Zulfi Bukhari, a close associate of PTI founder Imran Khan, and an absconder in the 190 million pounds corruption case. Accountability court judge Nasir Javed announced the verdict on the petition filed by the National Accountability Bureau. His seized properties include a 30-kanal plot and another four-kanal plot in Islamabad.

Quaid-i-Azam's death anniversary commemorated in Bangladesh

"Bangladesh gained independence because of Pakistan, which Jinnah helped create," says speaker

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: For the first time in Bangladesh's history, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's death anniversary was commemorated in Dhaka. The commemoration marked the 76th anniversary of Jinnah, and Urdu songs and poetry were played and recited in the country's capital city. The publication stated that the event was organised by the Nawab Salimullah Academy at the Tofazzal Hossain Manik Miah Hall at the National Press Club in Dhaka. The event was also expecting the arrival of the Pakistani high commissioner to Bangladesh as the chief guest, however, he was unable to mark his presence. Deputy High Commissioner Kamran Dhangal, meanwhile, was in attendance. A keynote paper, outlining the trajectory of Jinnah's life, was also presented at the event by Prof Dr Mostafizur Rahman. The academy's president Muhammad Abdul Jabbar and journalist Mostafa Kamal Mojumder were also present to mark the death anniversary.

A poet, JafarulHaqJafar, recited an Urdu poem at the event, while the songs in Urdu were performed by two Pakistani students studying in Bangladesh. "If Bangladesh had not been part of Pakistan in 1947, we would have been in the same position as Kashmir today, with the Indian junta holding weap-



ons to our necks. Bangladesh gained independence because of Pakistan, which Jinnah helped create," said Nagorik Parishad Md Samsuddin, the convener of the event. "Why should we change the name of Al-lama Iqbal Hall or Jinnah Avenue? These changes were made because Delhi wanted

them, but we did not. Bangladesh must foster strong relations with China and Pakistan," he added. The speakers attending the commemoration event spoke highly of the Quaid, stating that Pakistan would not have been created without Jinnah and that had that not happened then "Bangladesh

too would not exist". "Jinnah is the father of our nation, but we do not acknowledge it. We must preserve our brotherhood, and I hope that both Jinnah's birth and death anniversaries will continue to be observed here every year," said Nazrul Islam, one of the speakers at the event. He added that regardless of the circumstances, Bangladesh also gained independence, stressing that Dhaka must now maintain its relationship with Pakistan. Showering praises on Jinnah, another attendee at the occasion maintained that the "political incompetence and strife" facing the Indian continent after 1857 were ended by him. "Had Jinnah not taken responsibility for Bangladesh in 1947, we would have been in the same situation as West Bengal, remaining a part of India. It was because of his leadership that East Pakistan remained united with West Pakistan," he said, advising the new set-up in Bangladesh to assess the country's friendship. Deputy High Commissioner Kamran Dhangal, who also attended the commemoration ceremony, termed Quaid-i-Azam's leadership on the Muslim League's platform "outstanding". He added: "His vision for the new nation was clear. He advocated for a progressive and inclusive state, reflecting a commitment to freedom and tolerance. His contributions were not only revered in Pakistan but also across the world."

'Only Nawaz has right to criticise me'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Awam Pakistan Party leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi says only Nawaz Sharif has the right to criticise him. Speaking at an event in Lahore, Abbasi reflected on the past political happenings and said that there was a time when the PPP had returned to the assembly after years and he voted against Benazir Bhutto despite advice of his father's friend (who was with PPP). Abbasi added that those who left the assembly later became ministers multiple times and that the political atmosphere was unusual. Abbasi reiterated his loyalty to the PML-N, stating that Nawaz Sharif's leadership was superior and that he remained with him even in the most challenging times. "I never sought a position or ministry and Nawaz is a witness to that, he said. Reflecting on his political journey, Abbasi stated that after spending 35 years in politics, he found nothing difficult. He said he became a minister after 26 years.

Shibli Faraz demands removal of treasury senators

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the opposition in Senate Shibli Faraz on Friday wrote letter to Senate chairman demanding removal of treasury senators from the opposition benches. "The seats must be allocated separately to the senators of treasury and opposition as per the constitution," he said. Senator Shibli Faraz said that PTI is the largest party of the upper house but still its senators have been allocated seats on the back benches. He added that the parties with only one senator have been allocated seats on the front rows. He demanded change in the sitting plan in the upper house of the parliament.

Parliament Lodges declared as sub-jail

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday declared the Parliament Lodges of 10 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers - who were arrested from parliament for allegedly violating new law related to public gathering - as sub-jail a day after issuing their production orders. The development comes after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) declared PTI members of National Assembly's (MNA) eight-day physical remand null and void in several cases linked to September 8 rally. A number of PTI leaders had been arrested in connection with several cases including the reported attack on police at Chongi No 26 - which turned into a battleground as PTI workers and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) clashed after the former deviated from routes leading to Sangjani, venue of the party's public gathering. After the custodian of the lower house, Sadiq, granted the approval, the NA Secretariat issued a notification for the declaration of the Parliament Lodges of PTI parliamentarians as sub-jail. The MNAs whose lodges have been declared sub-jail include senior PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat, Malik Amir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, Naseem Shah, Ahmed Chattha, Sheikh Waqas Akram, Shoaib Shaheen, Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah, Awais Haider Jhakar, Zubair Khan Wazir and Yousuf Khan.

Ahsan highlights delays in Diamer Basha Dam Project

He said that in 2018, the estimated construction cost of the Diamer Basha Dam was Rs. 479 billion, and Rs. 120 billion had already been spent on land acquisition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a review meeting on the progress of the Diamer Basha Dam project. The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning, Chairman WAPDA, and senior officials of other relevant departments, according to a press release. During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal said that the Diamer Basha Dam is a crucial project for Pakistan's water and food security and must be completed expeditiously in the national interest. He said that in 2018, the estimated construction cost of the Diamer Basha Dam was Rs. 479 billion, and Rs. 120 billion had already been spent on land acquisition. However, due to delays and unnecessary postponements during the previous government, the cost of the project has increased significantly. He said that in 2020, construction was hastily started without proper financing, which further compounded the problems. The Planning

Minister said that during the tenure of the previous government, the cost of the project was estimated at Rs600 billion and even Rs750 billion in various meetings of the standing committees, while on paper, an estimate of Rs480 billion was being shown till date. Ahsan Iqbal maintained that the responsibility for the increase in the project cost lies with the previous incompetent government, and due to lack of funding and delays, the cost has now increased from Rs. 479 billion to Rs1400 billion. Expressing regret, Ahsan Iqbal said that even today, a complete financing plan for the project is not available. He suggested that the dam and power projects be separated and the financing of the power project be obtained from private sector. He further said that even after six years, the revised PC-1 of the project has not been prepared. I had proposed in a standing committee meeting during the previous tenure that work on a project whose PC-1 is more than two years old should not be started. On this occasion, he also said that in the future, projects will be completed under the Public-Private Partnership to avoid delays in funding and completion.



KARACHI: Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco, Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, cutting a Cake during the International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition and Conference Pakistan IMSEC 2024. - DNA

Govt sponsoring 32 dam projects: Musadik

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources, Musadik Masood Malik, informed the National Assembly on Friday that the Federal Government is financing the construction of 32 dam projects across Pakistan, with a total cost of Rs. 1,056,986 billion. Responding to a question during the National Assembly's question hour, the minister said, "The federal government is financing the construction of various small, medium, and large dams/reservoirs through the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) to store surplus water, which becomes available during the flood season. This stored water will be used for irrigation and drinking, when the natural flow in rivers decreases." Once completed, these projects will store approximately 8.43 million acre-feet of water and irrigate an additional 436,934 acres of land, Malik said and highlighting that the water stored in the Diamer Basha Dam alone, about 6.4 million acre-feet, will be used to supplement irrigation for 45 million acres of land in the Indus Basin Irrigation System. Additionally, he said that the 6.4 million acre-feet of water stored in the Diamer Basha Dam will be used to augment irrigation supplies currently provided to 45 million acres of canal-irrigated land within the Indus Basin Irrigation System. He further revealed plans for several additional projects, currently in the planning stages, including the Shyok Dam (5.0 MAF), Akhori Dam (6.0 MAF), Chinoti Dam (0.9 MAF), and Murunj Dam (0.45 MAF). To another question, he said that groundwater is a devolved subject under the 18th Amendment. He said, "steps taken to monitor and regulate groundwater, including relevant legislation and implementation, fall under the jurisdiction of the respective provinces". He referred to the National Water Policy (NWP) of 2018, which outlines an overall framework for addressing the emerging water crisis and provides guidelines for sustainable water management.

Govt IPP capacity expansion likely to worsen circular debt

The study noted that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued a total of 232 generation licenses to IPPs, with only 100 of these commissioned by PPIB contributing 24,958 MW to the national grid

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government aims to expand power generation capacity by adding 7,500 MW by 2034 and extending independent power producer (IPP) licenses, potentially worsening the circular debt crisis in the sector. In FY 2022-2023, capacity payments to 17 of the 100 IPPs with a combined capacity of 12,847 MW reached Rs472.12 billion, while heavy interest payments to nine notable IPPs amounted to Rs133.5 billion. In some cases, interest payments exceed both capacity and electricity purchase prices. With the current installed capacity of 45,000 MW surpassing peak demand of around 30,000 MW, further expansion and license renewals risk increasing financial obligations. Therefore, the government should adopt a balanced energy strategy, focusing on fiscal sustainability and reassessing both capacity expansion and IPP license renewals. These findings were part of a major research study by the Institute of Policy

Studies (IPS) on IPPs presented during a session titled "Landscaping IPPs in Pakistan" held at IPS, Islamabad. The findings were presented by Muhammad Wali Farooqi, research officer IPS, while the session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ameena Sohail, energy advocate and senior research associate IPS, Asad Mahmood, renewable energy and energy efficiency expert, and Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary water and power. The study noted that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued a total of 232 generation licenses to IPPs, with only 100 of these commissioned by the Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB) contributing 24,958 MW to the national grid. Notably, 53% of this capacity, i.e., 13,106 MW, is provided by just ten IPPs, representing 30% of Pakistan's total capacity. Two major IPPs, KAPCO and HUBCO, will see their licenses expire in 2024 and 2025 respectively, potentially reducing capacity by 2,930 MW. These IPPs have aged infrastructure and rely on fossil fuels.

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