



# Islamabad POST

Monday, September 16, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**Joe Biden to use rest of term for a better Ukraine**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Only Federation can talk to Taliban: Hina**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Saleema Pak first female ICC umpire**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Fazl holds 'trump card'**

## Contours of amendment made public

The prospects of the said constitutional package come amid speculations revolving around extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa – who is set to retire in October this year – after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought an early issuance of notification regarding the next top judge last month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amid the government's efforts to introduce a 'constitutional package' that reportedly gives it greater control over judicial procedures, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has taken centre stage, with both the ruling coalition and the opposition vying for his support in Parliament. "We haven't received the draft amendment bill yet [...] How can we vote before analysing it?" JUI-F General Secretary Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said speaking to journalists outside Fazl's residence. He said that the government delegation had been asked not to rush in tabling the bill. "We will participate in the [special parliamentary] committee's meeting and present our stance," he added. Haideri stressed that the opposition parties should also review the amendment bill, saying they have sought "some time" before making a decision. Both sessions of the National Assembly (NA) and the Senate – originally scheduled for earlier in the day – were delayed multiple times as both the government and the opposition were holding consultations. The government has been tight-lipped on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, but clarified that

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**'Mansoor A Shah will be next Chief Justice'**

Munir A Malik says Parliament's powers are limited and cannot override the judiciary or dismantle the court

DNA

KARACHI: Following the retirement of current Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on October 25, a legal expert Munir A. Malik claimed that Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah will take charge of the role of Constitutional Chief Justice of Pakistan on October 26, ARY News reported on Sunday. During an interview at ARY News program, Malik stressed that Chief Justices should be appointed based on seniority, stating, "Everyone knows who the senior judge is, and Syed Mansoor Ali Shah will naturally

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Leaders of various political parties engaged in hectic negotiations in order to reach a consensus on the Constitutional package. – DNA



**Democracy Day President, PM seek more inclusivity**

This year's theme for the day focuses on the importance of Artificial Intelligence as a tool for good governance



MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: On the International Day of Democracy, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have reaffirmed the

Continued on Page 06

**US not putting pressure on Israel: Hamas**

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: Hamas official says US not putting enough pressure on Israel to stop Gaza offensive. A senior Hamas official has told that the United States is not doing enough to force concessions from Israel that could lead to a truce in the conflict in Gaza. "The American administration does not exert sufficient or appropriate pressure on the Israeli side," Osama Hamdan told AFP during an interview in Istanbul. "Rather it is trying to justify the Israeli side's evasion of any commitment."

**Judicial package**

## Nawaz Sharif in Capital to muster support for Amendment

The senate representation on Sunday further increased in the special parliamentary committee

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N President Nawaz Sharif rushed to Islamabad to garner support for a proposed constitutional amendment. However, his efforts fell short, as the government was unable to present the package for discussion on Sunday. Nawaz Sharif had also planned to meet

Continued on Page 06

**Cabinet meeting likely today**

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet meeting is likely today. Sources close to this

Continued on Page 06

**Briefs**

**Kejriwal to resign as chief minister**

Kejriwal is a fierce critic of Indian PM Narendra Modi

DNA

NEW DELHI: Indian opposition leader Arvind Kejriwal said on Sunday he will resign as chief minister of the Delhi regional government, a day after he was released from prison on bail in a graft case. Kejriwal was granted bail on Friday by India's Supreme Court and left prison on Saturday almost six months after being detained in relation to alleged irregularities in the capital city's liquor policy. Kejriwal is a fierce critic of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a former anti-corruption crusader whose decade-old AAP quickly rose to mainstream politics, although its clout is relatively small compared to older opposition parties.

**Petrol price cut by Rs 10, diesel Rs 13 per liter**

DNA

KARACHI: The govt has decreased the petrol prices. Petrol prices is decreased by RS 10 per liter, while diesel prices is reduced by Rs 13 per liter. Lighte diesel is reduced by RS 12. The masses got relief in petrol prices as international oil prices have significantly dropped by 8.5%, plummeting from USD 79.39 per barrel on August 30, 2024, to USD 72.67 per barrel. This development marks a notable shift in the global energy markets. This decline in petrol prices is largely attributed to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) revising its global oil demand forecast, leading to reduced demand and subsequent price drops, said Tahir Abbas Head of Research AHL.

**Vows to resist any anti-judiciary move**

## PTI slams 'ambush on SC,' rejects changes

Barrister Gohar blasts govt for concealing legislation's content, stating PTI hasn't reviewed it yet

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday fiercely resisted a proposed constitutional amendment the government is pushing through parliament, rejecting both the extension of judges' tenure and the increase in their retirement age. The government, determined to press ahead with legislation affecting the superior judiciary, is scrambling to court members from various political parties. The proposed amendments aim to increase the retirement age of superior judges by three years, sparking controversy and a political tug-of-war between the government and the opposition. Currently, Article 179 of the Constitution states that a Supreme Court judge shall hold office until the age of 65, while Article 195 sets the retirement age for high court judges at 62. Currently, Article 175A of the Constitution mandates that the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court be appointed as the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) based on seniority.

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**Marriyam lauds PM Shehbaz**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Information Secretary Marriyam Aurangzeb praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for bringing economic stability to the country after several years. She said that the youth must understand why the economic indicators begin to improve as soon as the PML-N government comes into power. With the PML-N's governance, inflation starts to decrease historically, and the public begins to receive relief. She noted that the historic reduction in inflation from 38% to 9.6% is nothing short of a miracle. The decrease in the interest rate (policy rate) from 22% to 17.5% is proof of successful economic

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan to secure fresh IMF bailout package on 'Sept 25'

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expresses hope for bailout to be country's last IMF package

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the country will secure an extended International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme on September 25, The News reported on Sunday. Speaking at the CFA Society of Pakistan's 21st Annual Excellence Awards, Aurangzeb expressed hope that it will be the country's final IMF programme. However, he warned that failure to sustain reforms might lead to a 25th programme. His remarks come as Islamabad reached an agreement with the Washington-based lender on a \$7 billion 37-month loan programme in July earlier this year. However, the future of the bailout package is subject to the approval of the Fund's executive board which is set to convene on September 25 with Pakistan included in its meeting agenda. The country was required to secure external financing of \$2 billion from bilateral and commercial lenders as a pre-requisite for the IMF board's approval. It is to be noted that Pakistan owes \$5 billion to Saudi Arabia in the form of cash deposits, along with \$4 billion and \$3 billion from China and the

Continued on Page 06

**IPPs refuse to slash electricity rates**

DNA

LAHORE: As the masses continue to face the brunt of sky-high electricity bills due to exorbitant tariffs, the independent power producers (IPPs) have refused to slash electricity rates including the capacity charges, sources told Geo News on Sunday. Sources within the Pakistan Electric Power Company (Pepeco) say that the IPPs have called for the government to reduce the rates of their powerhouses, which amount to 52% of the total plants, and withdraw 38% "undue" tax on electricity bills. Ever since coming to power in February, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government has been under the spotlight over sky-high electricity tariffs which have further burdened the inflation-weary masses. Rising power tariffs

Continued on Page 06

**MURREE SPARKLETTS**  
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Call for sustainable policies to resolve water contamination issues

MULTAN: Untreated industrial effluent and solid waste, use of pesticides and chemicals and absence of water reservoirs have been continuously contaminating groundwater over decades making it harmful for human health and exerting an extra burden on our health budget. Although different governments executed projects for clean drinking water by installing water filtration plants in different cities and towns yet their proper functioning, cleanliness and hygiene had been a burning question. South Punjab, often characterized by its underdevelopment and socio-economic challenges, also faces this critical issue as majority of people in the region not having access to portable water. Housing 34.7 million people as per South Punjab secretariat record, its 23 percent population live in urban areas and out of a total population around 10 percent have access to clean drinking water. Then there is an issue of maintaining and ensuring proper functioning of filtration plants, meant to be the primary source of clean water for local population as it helps prevent diseases like hepatitis, cholera, dysentery, typhoid and other diseases. As safe drinking water supports community development by reducing burden of medical bills and is essential for hygiene and sanitation, the role of filtration plants in provision of safe water is of utmost importance. According to concerned officials, there are over 150 filtration plants in Multan city as the government alongside various philanthropists has installed these filtration plants to meet clean water needs of residents and keeps vigil on their maintenance and proper functioning. But many of citizens are seen often complaining about their efficient functioning, on time filters replacement, cleanliness and hygiene issues and in some cases their going out of order for months. "There are issues like improper maintenance, insufficient funding

and lack of accountability and clear enforceable maintenance protocol," said Salman Amjid, a resident of Shujabad Chowk. "Then there is also an issue that communities do not fully benefit from these plants. In many areas, these plants exist but people are not effectively utilizing them." It is commonly seen in our society that people often shy away from taking responsibility of community welfare projects. They can vocally criticize the governments and authorities for not providing basic amenities but once any welfare project is executed they take it as granted usually failing to dispense their duties. "This lack of ownership is a barrier to proper functioning of these facilities. Without community engagement and a sense of responsibility, such facilities fall in despair," remarked Muhammad Ramzan, a resident of Vehari. "Filtration plant installed at Pipli village of tehsil Vehari could not be activated due to lack of local community's participation. People in the village are poor and could not afford electricity bill for functioning of the plant." Contrary, at some places the same plants are properly functioning where people share financial burden for their better health. As electricity bill for running these plants and their maintenance are the major issues, the community members have appealed not to charge taxes in bills of filtration plants. In many cases the communities cannot afford these bills except that some philanthropist or affluent of the area take this responsibility. But, this may not happen everywhere and the burden of costs often falls on local residents. Consequently, many plants are either shut down or operate sporadically, failing to provide continuous supply of clean water to people. Meanwhile, Chairperson Chief Minister's Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection and Monitoring (DEFIM) Brig Retd Babar Ala Uddin claimed that Water and Sanitation Au-

thority was properly maintaining plants. "We regularly monitor their functioning, ensure timely replacement of filters and cleanliness at these plants sites," Ala Uddin said. "We also take measures to improve plants working where and when needed across our jurisdiction of action." However, he said making any project successful and efficiently working is a shared responsibility of the authorities and the communities. "Obviously the governments or authorities execute such projects for communities' welfare. As we do our bit therefore, the communities must also play their role in making these projects sustainable." In this situation some citizens have demanded a structured maintenance program, funded and overseen by the government to ensure that all filtration plants are regularly serviced. The program should include timely replacement of filters, routine checks on water quality and immediate repairs of any damaged components. Regular monitoring and reporting should also be made mandatory, with a clear accountability mechanism to ensure that maintenance is not neglected. As contaminated water whether it is ground or surface water, results in common and chronic diseases, the installation of new filtration plants and proper maintenance of already installed facilities, need an urgent intervention of the government departments, philanthropists and the local communities. Since, it is a shared responsibility there is also need for raising awareness among masses and educate them about their responsibilities they owe for sustenance of such projects. Installation of these plants is a positive step but a comprehensive policy was required for plants sustenance, proper and on-time maintenance, community ownership and affordability to ensure provision of clean drinking water to citizens across the board.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Ms. Uzma Bukhari inaugurates the Islamic calligraphy exhibition for Rabi' Al-Awwal at the Arts Council. —APP

CTP chalked out traffic plan for Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH)

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have chalked out comprehensive traffic plan for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) processions that would be celebrated with religious fervor and reverence on September 17. According to plan, parking of any vehicle or handcart on the route of the Milad processions would be prohibited. Two central processions will be held in Rawalpindi city in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). As many as, 7 DSPs, 83 Senior Traffic Wardens, and 364 Traffic wardens and Assistants, totaling 454 officers and staff, will be deployed on the designated routes of the processions. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Beenish Fatima has instructed all officers and staff to ensure best traffic arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). The CTO Rawalpindi stated that alternative routes have been designated to keep traffic flowing smoothly on the auspicious occasion. She further mentioned that all Circle Incharges and Sector Incharges have been given explicit instructions to remain in the field to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow. Additionally, a contingency plan will be issued for all emergency vehicles (ambulances and fire brigades) to ensure timely access in case of any emergency situation. —APP

IBA inaugurates CSS scholarship program

The event was graced by Chairman of District Council Syed Kumail Hyder Shah, Commissioner of Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, DIGP of Sukkur Pir Muhammad Shah, Vice Chancellor of Sukkur IBA University Prof Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh and other distinguished guests

SUKKUR: Sukkur IBA University inaugurated CSS Scholarship Program in collaboration with the District Council at a ceremony held today at the main auditorium of the University, said a release issued here on Sunday. The event was graced by Chairman of District Council Syed Kumail Hyder Shah, Commissioner of Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, DIGP of Sukkur Pir Muhammad Shah, Vice Chancellor of Sukkur IBA University Prof Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh and other distinguished guests. They collectively hailed the initiative as a significant and forward looking development. Syed Kumail Hyder Shah expressed his pride in the collaboration between Sukkur IBA University and the District Council, stated,

"This program is of great personal importance to him." He mentioned, "While he is hopeful for the success of every single student, even if just one student passes the CSS exam, it will be seen as a sign that their efforts have been worthwhile." Fayaz Hussain Abbasi described the District Council Sukkur fully funded CSS program as a lifelong and life-saving initiative. "We have to take extra ordinary steps to save future generations," he stressed. DIGP Pir Muhammad Shah praised the collaborative effort of IBA and the District Council, urging students to put in their best efforts to qualify and serve the nation because 'what goes around, comes around'. VC Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh assured that no student would be left

behind due to financial constraints, emphasizing the university's commitment to supporting every student. Pro Vice Chancellors, Prof Dr Syed Mir Muhammad Shah and Prof Dr M. Abdul Rehman Soomrani, Director Executive Development Center Prof Dr Altaf Hussain Samu, Prof Gulam Hussain Mangarhar, passing students and their parents were in attendance, expressing their gratitude to IBA and the District Council for their support in building their future careers. A total of 83 students have been selected for the scholarship after a rigorous process of test and interviews. The scholarship is merit and need-based and covers tuition fees, books, and provides a monthly stipend towards livelihood. —APP

Announcement

"My wife and I have recently converted to Islam! I've changed my name from Ravi Prem to Muhammad Dilshan, and my wife's new name is Hurain Fatima (she was previously Anitha Ravi). We'd appreciate it if you could use our new names from now on."

Court Notice

اعلان عدالت: جناب عمران اکرم صاحب سول جج راولپنڈی... (Legal notice text in Urdu)

ED IBCC meets CM Balochistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Director of the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah met with the Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Sunday to discuss the latest educational reforms introduced by the Federal Ministry of Education and the exam reforms proposed by IBCC. During the meeting, the ED IBCC also presented a copy of the IBCC Annual Report and a commemorative shield to the Chief Minister as a gesture of partnership and mutual commitment to education. The Chief Minister appreciated the wide-ranging efforts by IBCC and expressed his support for enhancing the education system and exam processes in the province. As part of the meeting, the Chief Minister agreed to hand over a government building to the IBCC, aimed at providing improved public access to IBCC services. This new facility will offer easier access for students and educational institutions across Balochistan. This collaboration reflects a shared vision between the federal and provincial governments to uplift educational opportunities and streamline examination systems, ultimately benefiting the youth of Balochistan.

Time to revitalize Quaid's vision for a prosperous Pakistan

DNA

PESHAWAR: As 76th death anniversary of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed a few days back, nation is still struggling to revitalize his vision for making the country a prosperous welfare state. With more than 77 years down the road after Pakistan was came into being, the country passed through different phases on way to the destination envisioned by 'Father of the Nation.' But hurdles after hurdles hampered this journey and the country is still confronting gigantic issues like political harmony, speedy dispensation of justice, economic revival and internal and external

security threats. No doubt that Quaid's personality, vision and struggle is recognized globally but materialization of his vision still seems like a dream as the nation is waiting miracles to happen for rectification of the time lost on way to progress and prosperity. So, the time is passing fast and limited clues are left. Stanley Wolpert, a renowned academic, historian and writer had stated in his famous book 'Jinnah of Pakistan' that 'few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three.' No doubt it is a great acknowl-

edgement for the leader and his unflinching struggle for a separate motherland for the Muslims of Sub-Continent. But seeing through the annals of history, we find that we remained lost somewhere in the dust oozing out from our own follies as well as conspiracies of our evil wishers, still looking for a way to rush out of this dust storm. Lot of experiences made time and again by different regimes and rulers to hammer out our problems dashed down to ground due to one reason or the other and once again we are on crossroads of history seeking a clue to reach our destination. Can it be the noble principles of governance envisioned by our great Quaid?

IMF loan will prevent bankruptcy temporarily

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Sunday, said that the IMF loan of seven billion dollars would pave the way for other loans, which will temporarily save the country from bankruptcy. It is being claimed that this will be the last loan from the IMF, but the ground realities are different. Borrowing will continue even after this loan, as there seems no intention to change the damaging policies, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the country will remain indebted, and unrest, as well as unemployment, will continue to rise because of the wrong priorities of the policymakers. The business leader said that for rulers, importers have always remained more important than all other sectors, including the troubled export sector. This priority has doubled the volume of imports compared to exports. For decades, he observed, the interests of the shopkeepers have been put before everything else, including economic development, due to political reasons. He noted that promoting imports and supporting shopkeepers have left the industrial sector in limbo and triggered deindustrialization in a country with a rapidly increasing population. He said that keeping the shopkeepers happy at any cost will continue in the future. A new mini-budget is also being introduced to appease the IMF, which will cause hardships to the public, the industrial sector, and the taxpayers, but traders would be spared. He feared that 700 billion rupees would be squeezed from the taxpayers through the mini-budget due to the incompetence of the tax-collecting institutions. Shahid Rashid Butt said that business activities will not be restored by a two percent reduction in the interest rate, and in case of a further cut, inflation will increase. He said that internal and external debt, unaffordable pension debt, and financial mismanagement in the energy sector have peaked. He observed that due to the favoritism of the landlords toward the shopkeepers, no government is prepared to take the tough decisions necessary to revive the economy, which greatly increases the burden on the industrial sector. The authorities always prefer to ignore the signals from the economy and do not take the right actions at the right time because they choose to be engaged in internal politics. —DNA

Forte AI launches revolutionary App to search job worldwide

ISLAMABAD: Finland's renowned IT company, Forte AI, has developed a revolutionary App powered by artificial intelligence (AI) designed to help the global workforce search for suitable jobs worldwide. This App will be available to both the public and companies by the end of December this year, enabling job seekers to upload their CVs and companies to post their profiles. Users can find suitable jobs or services based on individual qualifications. This initiative was launched to make global employment more accessible, keeping pace with modern demands and enabling individuals and companies to benefit from a streamlined hiring process. In an exclusive interview with APP, Forte AI's founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO), Jan

Kristian Valkonen, said, "Our goal is to empower the global workforce. In today's fast-paced digital era, finding jobs and accessing qualified workers has become increasingly challenging." He explained that the Forte AI App offers a comprehensive solution to these challenges, benefiting job seekers, students, companies, and freelancers. According to him, users won't need to rewrite their experiences or qualifications on the Forte AI platform, as the app provides automated assistance. However, both job seekers' CVs and company profiles must be complete and up-to-date. This App is set to be a game-changer for fresh graduates, experienced professionals, freelancers, and companies alike. One of the App's standout features is its self-writing resume

tool, which eliminates the need for frequent CV updates, saving users valuable time. By leveraging AI technology, the app helps users align precisely with the requirements of any job posting, project, or career opportunity, making the process more efficient and seamless. He said, that the platform goes beyond traditional job boards by actively searching for opportunities that match users' skills and preferences, streamlining the job search process. He added that Forte AI can identify internships, entry-level positions, and freelance gigs, which will be particularly beneficial for students seeking positions in their field of study and professionals looking to change careers. The App saves users from spending excessive time searching

for suitable employment. Regarding the App's benefits for companies, he said that Forte AI will revolutionize talent recruitment. Traditional hiring processes are often time-consuming and require reviewing hundreds, if not thousands, of CVs. With Forte AI, companies can bypass this tedious process by using AI-driven agent swarms that eliminate the need to post job ads, allowing them to actively search for talent instead. In response to another question, he confirmed that Forte AI will not charge any fees or commissions to job seekers or companies. Forte AI will handle everything from application submission to job acquisition through its efficient tracking and automation system. —APP

Climate Change disrupts cloth sale

MULTAN: Climate change is not only a global environmental concern but also it is being felt in the clothing markets of South Punjab as with erratic weather patterns which confusing the customers what sort of cloth to be purchased. Similarly, an unpredictable agricultural season, farmers, the backbone of the region's economy, are facing financial

difficulties. This, in turn, has led to a sharp decline in the sale of new cloth, particularly in rural areas. Muhammad Saqib, a shopkeeper in Khanewal, shared the severe impact of climate variations on consumer behavior. "There's been too much variation in the weather patterns. People are confused about when to shop for the new season,"

Saqib said this while talking to APP. He maintained that many customers were now delaying their purchases, waiting for more stable weather conditions before buying seasonal clothes. "The sales have dropped remarkably compared to previous years," he added. This hesitation to shop for new clothes stems from the difficulty in predicting when one season. —APP

Advertisement for Dino Valley restaurant featuring a burger and fries. Text: 10 Minutes Drive From The Monal. Contact: 051 8770065 / 66 / 67, 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335. UAN: 051 111 777 778. Website: dinovalley.pk



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

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

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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Met Office.....9250360-6  
RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# The Aga Khan Foundation, KfW Bank sign a partnership agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: KfW Development Bank and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), in collaboration with Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) and Accelerate Prosperity (AP) have formalized their partnership to support entrepreneurial culture in Pakistan. The agreement, signed today at the AKF office, marks the official launch of the "Start-up Pakistan" initiative. This groundbreaking project is expected to lead to improved job creation, innovation and economic resilience with a transformative impact on the entrepreneurial landscape of Pakistan. Earlier in the day, KfW mission, including Mr. Stephan Opitz - Member Management Committee, Dr. Bianca Clausen - Director Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq Cluster and Mr. Sebastian Jacobi - Director KfW Pakistan, visited the National Science and Technology Park (NSTP) housed at National University of Science and Technology (NUST) to gain insights into Pakistan's burgeoning start-up ecosystem. The delegation met with various green and technology-driven



start-ups to understand the entrepreneurial landscape and identify areas where the collaboration could make the most significant impact. Start-up Pakistan, a 10

million initiative funded by the German Government through KfW, aims to support start-up entrepreneurs by building capacities and models, developing business networks and secured

tailored capital for businesses with a special focus on youth and women entrepreneurs. Over the next five years, the project will support start-ups in diverse sectors such as education,

health technology, sustainable tourism, and green building, prioritizing businesses that promote digitalization and environmental sustainability. Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Clausen emphasized the importance of this collaboration: "We are thrilled to work alongside AKF and other key partners to strengthen Pakistan's start-up ecosystem. This initia-

tive will create opportunities for youth and women to innovate and build sustainable businesses, contributing to the economic well-being of communities across the country." Akhtar Iqbal, CEO AKF, Pakistan added that, "With Pakistan's economic challenges and climate vulnerabilities, we are thrilled to embark on this flagship initiative to create an enabling environment for start-ups and businesses to grow and scale. AKF is excited to strengthen its decades long partnership with Germany which remains amongst our top partners in the country." The agreement signed today cements the commitment of both KfW and AKF to foster job creation, innovation, and sustainable growth in Pakistan. By targeting pre-revenue and post-revenue start-ups, this project aims to create over 2,500 direct jobs and support 1,500 entrepreneurs, 50% of whom will be women and youth. It also contributes to Pakistan's alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 for Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 5 for Gender Equality.

## Chinese investors being welcomed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese investors will be welcomed to set up their manufacturing in Pakistan and export products to the European Union. We have good market in European countries and the Middle East, where we have also finalized the Free Trade Agreement. This was stated by Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi while taking with China Economic Net (CEN). "We have a strong foundation to promote China-Pakistan trade cooperation," Hashmi said, referring to almost 11 years of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement. Meanwhile, Pakistan National Pavilion was officially inaugurated here at the 2024 China International Fair Trade in Services (CIFTIS), marking another joint effort made by China and Pakistan to showcase investment opportunities in Pakistan and further promote bilateral trade. As chief guest of the event, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi stressed the importance of the pavilion in providing business opportunities to Pakistani stakeholders. "As one of the major fairs for China's opening up to the world, thousands of enterprises have come here every year. This also highlights the unique appeal and attraction of Beijing as a capital city—one that draws in talent, capital, and good management practices. By bringing these elements together, the CIFTIS creates a significant impact and adds more value," the envoy said. At this year's CIFTIS, around 80 countries and international organizations set up exhibitions and held conferences, and more than 450 Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders participated in the offline exhibition. To fully take advantage of the business event, the Pakistani embassy has, for the first time, directly reached out to the business community of Pakistan and encouraged them to participate in the exhibition. As a result, more than 15 exhibitors have come from Pakistan to have their debuts on the occasion. The embassy has also invited the Export Processing Zones Authority and Special Economic Zone Authority to the exhibition to showcase incentives and policies for Chinese investors in Pakistan. —DNA

## ISSI hosts think-tank dialogue with Chinese Delegation

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House Meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Mr. SUN Xiaobo, Director General, Department of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Beijing. Other members of the delegation included: Mr. Xie Xinxing, Deputy Division Director, Ms. XIAO Yue, Deputy Division Director,

and Jiang Yingbo, Second Secretary, Department of Arms Control, MFA; and Mr. Xu Hangtian, Minister Counsellor and Ms. Wanf YiQiu, Third Secretary, Embassy of China, Islamabad. The Session was attended by distinguished former diplomats, practitioners, academics, and think-tank experts including: Ambassador Zamir Akram; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Ambassador Tehmina Janjua; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi; Ambassador Babar Amin; Mr Haroon Rashid, DG SECDIV;

Maj Gen (R) Ausaf Ali; Maj. Gen. (R) Naseer Ali Khan; Dr. Salma Malik, QAU; Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, QAU; Air Commodore (R) Khalid Banuri; Mr Kamran Hashmi, NIMA; Dr. Adil Sultan, Air University; Mr. Imran Ahmad Khan and Mr. Rashid Sultan, PAEC; and Dr. Ghulam Mujaddid, NDU. Participants from the ISSI included Director General Ambassador So-hail Mahmood, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Centers' Directors, and members of the ACDC team. The event was moderated by direc-

tor ACDC Malik Qasim Mustafa. The participants discussed a wide range of subjects - including global trends and challenges facing arms controls and disarmament regime; challenges posed by emerging technologies; managing the risks of AI; rising major-power competition; militarization of outer space; ongoing Ukraine conflict and the increased risk of nuclear clash; deepening Indo-US strategic partnership; regional and global security dynamics; and China's Global Security Initiative. The wide-ranging interaction exuded the spirit of Pakistan-China relationship marked by strategic mutual trust and reinforced common perceptions and convergent positions on security and strategic issues of common interest. At the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood presented ISSI shield to the Chinese delegation.

## 'Shrinking spaces for civil society cause frustration'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Civil society representatives and concerned citizens at the Devcom-Pakistan Open Public Forum underscored the urgent need for collaborative efforts to address the shrinking spaces for civil society in Pakistan. Participants emphasized the need for enhanced collective advocacy to reform restrictive regulations impacting civil society. Building alliances with business groups, academics, and international organizations was highlighted as crucial for advancing policy changes that support greater freedom for CSOs. They said the social development sector has shrunk to the historic low because of undue regulatory frameworks, and lack of donors' trust in the nongovernmental sector. Instead of engaging civil society to counter anti-state propaganda and to support development, many restrictions were imposed on them.

The forum underscored the importance of working with legal experts to challenge and seek reforms for laws that severely restrict CSO activities, such as those related to registration, foreign funding, and operational constraints. The forum encouraged engaging with international organizations and networks to gain support and advocacy for a more favorable environment for CSOs. Participating in global dialogues and forums was also suggested to share experiences and influence international policy. Devcom-Pakistan, a leading development organization, hosted the Open Public Forum on Saturday to address the pressing issue of shrinking spaces for civil society in Pakistan. The forum brought together key stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), policymakers, digital experts, and community leaders, to discuss the challenges faced by CSOs and propose actionable recommendations for fostering a more

enabling environment. The guest speakers included Human Resource Development Network Executive Director Robeela Bangash, PakAID chief Executive Haseeb Kiyani, Kinnaird College associate professor Dr. Khushboo Ejaz, Bahria University faculty member Dr. Hayyam Qayyum, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, and ECI executive Director Azhar Qureshi. HRD Network Executive Director Robeela Bangash said undue regulatory frameworks, political instability, inconsistency of policies, and the negative perception about the nongovernmental sector marred the spaces, and undervalue their work in the development of communities. The CSOs need to change the sector's perception as well as need to harness public-private partnerships. They can better navigate regulatory constraints, overcome digital barriers, and continue to drive positive societal change.

## Chinese and Pakistani Institutions establish teaching resource database

ISLAMABAD: Chinese universities, colleges, institutes and enterprises took participation in the developments of Major Standards of elder care health and wellness for Pakistan. Furthermore, the Chinese side jointly developed curriculum standards, digital resources, practical training software and equipment, etc. of the elder care major and established teaching resource database in collaboration with the Pakistani counterparts. Now, this Sino-Pak cooperation has been promoted and applied in Pakistani colleges and universities. Taking it as an opportunity, the vista of cooperating further in smart elder care in a more refined, standardized and professional way for the two countries seems alluring. According to the recognition certificates by Pakistan National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council (PNMC), faculty team members from China's Jiangsu Vocational Institute of Commerce, Anhui Vocational College of City Management, Xuzhou Open University, Beijing Youth Politics College, Dezhou Vocational and Technical College, Changsha Social Work College.—DNA

### FEDERAL TAX OMBUDSMAN SECRETARIAT

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PRE-QUALIFICATION OF FIRMS/VENDORS  
FOR REPAIRING AND MAINTENANCE WORKS  
DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Secretariat, HQ Islamabad intends to invite proposals for pre-qualification of Firms/Vendors through e-Pak Acquisition Disposal System (EPADS) of PPRA for the following repair/maintenance work during the current financial year 2024-25:-

- i. Repair of Machinery & Equipment;
- ii. Repair of Furniture & Fixture;
- iii. Repair of Computer Equipment (Hardware & Software/IT equipment);

2. The Terms and Conditions for pre-qualification of firms/vendors will be as under:-

- I. Firms shall have their own complete set up i.e. repair centres/workshops in Islamabad/Rawalpindi for repair/maintenance of specific fields indicated above.
- ii. Firms shall be bound to provide services to FTO Secretariat, HQ Islamabad during CFY 2024-25 on immediate basis and even at odd hours.
- iii. Firms must have General Sales Tax Registration, National Tax Number (NTN) and is on active taxpayer list (ATL) of FBR. The firm is also responsible to provide vendor number and bank account number etc.
- iv. Firms shall bound to install genuine parts in each item of above fields as & when required.
- v. In case, the parts replaced are found sub-standard or second hand, the firms shall struck off from the panel of FTO Secretariat, HQ Islamabad and liable to be proceeded against as per PPRA Rules, 2004.
- vi. Firms shall be bound to return the replaced/old spare items and shall be liable to give warranty of each item replaced or repaired. If the same defect arises again during warranty period, the firms shall be responsible to replace parts free of cost.
- vii. Successful bidder must take the items for repair at his own expense, if repair is required at the bidder's workshop, he will return it to FTO Secretariat, HQ Islamabad at his own risk and cost.
- viii. The intending firms must provide a list of its clients, relevant experience and past performance capabilities with respect to personnel machinery equipment and plant etc.
- ix. The firms will provide an affidavit on a stamp paper of RS.50/-, duly attested by the Oath Commissioner to the effect that firms/vendors have never been black listed by any Government Department(s) or has indulged in any kind of litigation with any Government Department(s).
- x. The procuring agency/FTO Secretariat, HQ Islamabad reserves the right to accept or reject (wholly or partially) of any or all bids/proposals in accordance with Rule-33 of PPRA Rules-2004.
- xi. As per Rules 36(a) of PPRA Rules-2004 single stage one envelope procedure will be adopted.

3. All interested firms/bidders must submit the proposals through e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) of PPRA as per the under mentioned schedule. No physical submission shall be entertained.

<b>Submission closing date &amp; time</b>	<b>1st October, 2024 at 11:00 am</b>
<b>Opening date and time</b>	<b>1st October, 2024 at 11:30 am</b>

(Muhammad Farhan Khan)

Director (Admn)  
Ph: 051-9217767

PID(I) No.1915/24



## Briefs

Chairlift  
rope breaks  
in Upper Dir,  
injured 4

ISLAMABAD: A mother and her children were among four people who were critically injured after the rope of their chairlift broke in the Makhnokhas Shangal area of Upper Dir on Sunday morning. According to details, rescue sources and residents said the victims were crossing the river in the chairlift and when they reached the middle the chairlift's ropes broke and it fell into the river, as a result, four people drowned, a private news channel reported. The rescued persons reached the area and shifted injured people to the hospital for treatment.—APP

Parliamentarians  
mark 'World  
Democracy Day'

ISLAMABAD: On World Democracy day, parliamentarians reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the fundamental pillars of democracy, including respect for institutions, transparency, accountability and the recognition that democratic norms which are vital for fostering trust among citizens and ensuring the efficient operation of governments. In an exclusive talks with PTV news channel, Parliamentarians emphasized that democracy serves as a robust pillar, bridging the gap between citizens and governments. Member of the National Assembly Mirza Ikhtiar Baig emphasized that democracy is not merely a system of governance but a way of life that fosters inclusivity, diversity and equal opportunities for all citizens. He urged continued efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote democratic values and ensure the active participation of citizens in the democratic process. MNA Aftab Ahmad Sheikh stressed that a robust democracy is essential for addressing the challenges facing the nation, driving social and economic progress and upholding the principles of justice, equality, and human rights. Reinforcing democracy, he believes that Pakistan can unlock its full potential and create a brighter future for generations to come. "Democracy is the backbone of a progressive society and we must work tirelessly to nurture and strengthen it," said Senator Rubina Khalid. Shehla Raza, a prominent parliamentarian also paid a heartfelt tribute to the iconic leaders Benazir Bhutto and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, recognizing their unwavering struggle for democracy in Pakistan.—APP

QAU  
students,  
IWMB  
hold Green  
activity

ISLAMABAD: The Quaid e azam University (QAU) students and Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) volunteers jointly organized "Lantana Camara plant removal activity" at Trial-3 of the Margalla Hills National Park. The Lantana camara plant, an invasive species, is proliferating in the National Park damaging growth of other Indigenous eco-friendly plants. The objective of the activity was to remove the shrubs of Lantana as they are fire-prone and to support indigenous species regeneration.—APP

Tight monetary policy to  
thwart growth of industry

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has called for a significant cut in the monetary policy rate to attain the high position in Ease of Doing Business ranking, amidst record high markup rate, hyperinflation and rising energy prices. In a statement issued today, APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the already high cost of production has drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the outgoing fiscal year, besides the coun-

Malaysian HC greets Pak New  
FS, eyes stronger bilateral ties

During the meeting, Ambassador Dato' Azhar extended his warmest congratulations and heartiest felicitations to Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Baloch on her appointment as Foreign Secretary. Considering her extensive diplomatic experience, including her tenure as High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia from 2019 to 2023, Ambassador Dato' Azhar expressed his confidence that the excellent bilateral relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan will be elevated to greater heights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on the newly appointed Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ambassador Anna Baloch on 13 September 2024, who officially assumed her post on 11 September 2024. During the meeting, Ambassador Dato' Azhar extended his warmest congratulations and heartiest felicitations to Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Baloch on her appointment as Foreign Secretary. Considering her extensive diplomatic experience, including her tenure as High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia from 2019 to 2023, Ambassador Dato' Azhar expressed his confidence that the excellent bilateral relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan will be elevated to greater heights. Both sides held extensive constructive discussion aimed at advancing the strategic partnership between the two nations. They explored new collaboration in emerging areas such as automotive industry, blue economy, education, energy production and technical and vocational ed-



ucation and training (TVET) for skilled and semi-skilled workers. Ambassador Dato' Azhar emphasized that despite the highest bilateral trade recorded at USD1.8

billion previously, there existed immense potential for growth, and that both countries should put efforts to increase the figure through new trade and invest-

ment initiatives. In the regional context, Ambassador Dato' Azhar highlighted the opportunities presented by ASEAN, particularly Malaysia's strategic

position as a gateway to the ASEAN market, offering immense potential for Pakistan to expand its economic engagement in the region. Malaysia would assume

the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025. Both sides also touched on issues of mutual concern, including the situation in Palestine and Afghanistan. As both sides were preparing for the upcoming visit by the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia to Pakistan, Ambassador Dato' Azhar acknowledged the importance of the visit in reinvigorating relations between the two nations. Given the last Prime Ministerial visit five years ago, he stressed that the timing was crucial for strengthening ties. The meeting also touched on potential deliverables of the visit, focusing on trade, halal cooperation, air connectivity, and tourism sector. The meeting marks a renewed step towards further deepening cooperation and cementing the long-standing fraternal ties between Malaysia and Pakistan. Considering that both Foreign Secretary and High Commissioner have had the privilege of working together during the former's stint in Malaysia and the latter as Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia overseeing Malaysia-Pakistan relations, the atmosphere of the meeting was warm and friendly.

PIDE highlights Pak governance  
Bottlenecks, proposes blueprint

Over 80% of federal processes still rely on outdated, manual systems, significantly delaying decision-making and policy implementation

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: A new report titled Modernizing Governance: Challenges and Solutions in Pakistan's Rules of Business and Secretariat Instructions, authored by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Prof. Nadeem Ahmed Khan, Dr. Khuram Ellahi Khan, and Prof. Hassan Rasool, has been released by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), highlighting key inefficiencies within Pakistan's government framework. This report comprehensively addresses the challenges and provides actionable solutions aimed

at improving governance and modernizing the country's administrative structures, using best practices from global governance models. The report reveals that while Pakistan's Rules of Business 1973 and Secretariat Instructions are the backbone of federal governance, they have not sufficiently evolved to meet modern administrative needs. For instance, over 80% of federal processes still rely on outdated, manual systems, significantly delaying decision-making and policy implementation. Centralized approval mechanisms alone account for up to 60% of these delays, creating bottlenecks across ministries. Furthermore, the report shows that more than 50% of all federal decisions are

delayed due to excessive bureaucracy, with less than 10% of officials held accountable for inefficiencies. The report also highlights inefficiencies in inter-divisional consultation, noting that over 70% of inter-ministerial communications face delays due to centralized control and ineffective processes. These challenges have resulted in a slow and unresponsive governance system that lacks the accountability necessary for effective administration. In response, the report proposes several reforms aligned with global benchmarks, showing that countries modernizing their public administration have seen efficiency increases of up to 40%. These recom-

mendations include streamlining government systems, with the potential to reduce delays by 50-60%, and organizational restructuring, which could shorten decision-making times by up to 30%. The report also advocates enforcing accountability measures, with penalties for noncompliance potentially improving operational efficiency by at least 20%. Additionally, adopting New Public Management (NPM) and Post-NPM models could align Pakistan's governance practices with international standards, achieving governance improvements similar to countries that have seen a 40-50% increase in performance after reforms.

BJP systematically  
working to dis  
empower Muslims

ISLAMABAD: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is systematically working to disempower Muslims and erode their religious and cultural identity in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today said under the RSS/BJP regime, occupied Jammu and Kashmir is facing a relentless assault on its Muslim identity. It said the BJP's agenda in the occupied territory seeks to erase its Islamic roots and impose Hindutva ideology, adding the RSS-backed Modi regime aims to transform Kashmir from a land of Sufi saints into a Hindutva bastion of hatred. The report lamented that the current BJP policies are designed to create a Hindu majority by disempowering Muslims and altering IIOJK's demographics. It said RSS/BJP's aggressive promotion of Hindutva through cultural programs and policies demonstrates a concerted effort to undermine Kashmir's rich Islamic heritage. It said the BJP government officials are instructing Muslim shopkeepers in the Jammu region of the territory to cease selling meat, targeting their economic and cultural practices. It said the BJP administration is facilitating Hindu Yatra in IIOJK while imposing restrictions on Kashmiri Muslims observing their own festivals like Eid. The Modi regime, the report said, is opening wine shops in predominantly Muslim areas of IIOJK with the aim of undermining Muslim community's moral fabric. The BJP's actions, the report said, are systematically dismantling Kashmir's Islamic heritage and replacing it with a Hindu-centric narrative. APP

PML-N leader  
calls for unity  
on 'Democracy  
Day'

ISLAMABAD: On Democracy Day, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Iqbal Zafar Jhagra Sunday called on the nation to unite in their commitment to democratic norms and the rule of law, emphasizing the importance of following the Quaid-e-Azam's principles for a prosperous and progressive Pakistan. Talking to PTV news channel, Jhagra stressed that institutions are the backbone of democracy and their respect is vital for the smooth functioning of the government. He urged all political parties to respect institutions and work together to build a stronger more democratic country. The PML-N leader stressed that civilized language and respectful discourse are essential components of a healthy democracy.—APP

FRIA asks govt to  
improve governance  
to ensure 5% growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam suggested the government to observe restraint while getting loans from commercial banks and improve governance to ensure over 5 percent growth target which has not been achieved so far. He appealed the SBP to review its tight monetary policy stance as it will hamper the production and thwart the economic growth of the country. The FRIA SVC was of the view that the SBP had taken the decision to enhance the policy rate as per instruction of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as the decision is not based keeping in view the situation of trade and economy, he added. He said the SBP had taken a unilateral decision in view of the absence of any government. He said the SBP had previously cut the interest rate on government intervention and pressure from businesses, but now it was free

to raise the policy rate. The FRIA cannot understand how the policy rate will curb food inflation as the high-interest rate and rupee depreciation will increase the cost of doing business, he said. He said the SBP had been watching the rupee fall against the greenback from the sidelines since the political uncertainty has gripped the country. Now it has come up with minor cut in interest rates to do the rest of the damage to the economy. He came down hard on the latest monetary policy declaration by the central bank, which he said would make borrowing too expensive for them to continue with their operations. He said inflation in Pakistan was cost-push, which spiked due to surging prices of commodities in world markets as well as depreciation of the rupee against the dollar. The economy doesn't have the capacity to absorb the high interest rate as it was already struggling with the weak exchange rate," he pointed out. He added that the free hand given to the SBP was in fact making matters complicated for the country, as well as industry.



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## The GCC Chemical trade

THE establishment of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with key partners – both East and West – has been a goal long pursued by the GCC states. A growing industrial hub in the production and export of commodity chemicals and petrochemicals, the Arabian Gulf enjoys positive trade relations with some of the world's largest economies: China, India and Turkey. In the years post COVID-19, regional trade dynamics, highly influenced by global trends, were redrawn once again. As economies regained momentum, demand for chemicals across various sectors rebounded, driving significant trade momentum. China, the GCC's largest export market, accounts for 19 percent of total GCC chemical exports. Additionally, GCC chemical shipments to India and Turkey set a new record in 2022, reaching almost \$20 billion and over \$6 billion, respectively. This was predominantly due to the resumption of economic activity, the strengthening of commercial relations through bilateral agreements, such as the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and the expansion of industrial sectors in all regions. Today's conditions for strengthening bilateral trade remain favorable, as the GCC region accelerates its pursuit of mutually beneficial FTAs. Agreements, characterized by the elimination of trade barriers, are known to foster a larger and more expansive marketplace for goods and services. Furthermore, they serve as a powerful magnet for foreign investments, attracting external capital into the region. As part of a recent study, GPCA estimates that an FTA with China, India and Turkey would have a welfare effect of \$23.25 billion due to increased market integration, competition, and technological progress. In addition, an FTA would drive a substantial consumer surplus of \$25.3 billion, improving living standards, driving product variety, and opening access to advanced technologies, which are proven to contribute to consumers' overall welfare. Historically, China and the GCC have enjoyed steady growth in chemical trade value, underlining the chemical sector's strategic importance in bilateral economic ties. A potential FTA between the two regions could open new market access. According to GPCA research, GCC petrochemical exports to Asia's largest economy could increase by \$1.1 billion over the next year upon a tariff reduction of an average of 5.9 percent, providing opportunities for growth and diversification. Additionally, the elimination of tariffs under an FTA could enhance the competitiveness of GCC petrochemical products in the Chinese market. A potential FTA between the GCC and China could present both opportunities and challenges. Careful consideration must be afforded to trade elasticity as well as China's self-sufficiency strategy. Overall, an FTA can enhance trade efficiency, market access, and collaborative growth within the petrochemical sector.



## China's trade with Africa

IN the early morning at a flower farm in Kenya, freshly harvested roses, with dewdrops clinging to their petals, were ready to be shipped. In 48 hours, they would be put onto the shelves of the Hunan Gaoqiao Grand Market, Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province half a world away. At the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in November last year, China announced the establishment of a "green channel" for African countries' agricultural products entering China. According to Clement Tulezi, CEO of the Kenya Flower Council (KFC), the "green channel" will help shorten the time for inspection and quarantine and expand the exemption from customs duty, creating more market opportunities for Kenyan flowers and featured farm produce from other African countries, such as avocado, citrus and pineapple. In recent years, African products have become increasingly popular in the Chinese market following the implementation of trade facilitation measures between China and Africa. Essential oil from Madagascar, gems from Zambia, coffee from Ethiopia, wood sculptures from Zimbabwe, wine from South Africa and cosmetics from Senegal are sought after by Chinese consumers. Under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China-Africa economic and trade cooperation has maintained strong vitality and achieved fruitful outcomes. China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years. According to statistics released by China's Ministry of Commerce, China-Africa trade reached a record high of \$282.1 billion in 2023, up 1.5 percent year on year. Apart from the record-breaking trade volume, the China-Africa trade structure has also improved, highlighted by China's surging agricultural imports from Africa. Last year, China's imports of African nuts, vegetables, flowers and fruits increased by 130 percent, 32 percent, 14 percent and 7 percent, respectively, compared to the previous year. Besides, mechanical and electronic products have maintained a major force in China's exports to Africa. The rapid growth in China's exports of the three major tech-intensive green products, namely the "new three" – new energy vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and photovoltaic products, has offered strong support for Africa's green energy transition. While working to synergize development strategies, China and Africa have constantly unleashed their development requirements, providing stronger momentum for economic and trade cooperation. While Africa's high-quality agricultural products and rich minerals reach the Chinese market, China is bringing to the African continent new technologies and business models in trade logistics, digital economy, clean energy, health, green development and finance. The continuous efforts to promote trade facilitation between China and Africa are injecting momentum into trade and economic cooperation.

# Predicting the future: Pak-US relations and global security cooperation

Abdullah Hamid Gul

Security cooperation has always been a cornerstone of Pak-US relations, and this partnership is stronger today than ever. The two countries have a long history of working together to combat terrorism and promote regional stability

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan and the United States have shared a relationship that, while not without its complexities, has consistently demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and mutual benefit. This partnership, forged over decades of strategic alignment, reflects the dynamic nature of global geopolitics and the evolving interests of both nations. From the early days of Pakistan's independence, when the young nation sought support from the United States, to the present day, where both countries collaborate on a broad range of issues, the relationship has matured and deepened, becoming more multifaceted and strategically significant. Historically, the alliance between Pakistan and the United States was shaped by shared strategic interests during the Cold War. Pakistan, recognizing the importance of aligning with the West, became a crucial partner for the United States in South Asia. This period saw significant collaboration in military, economic, and diplomatic arenas, laying a strong foundation for the relationship. The partnership was characterized by a shared vision of regional stability, peace, and development, which would endure through the changing global dynamics of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. As we move further into the 21st century, the trajectory of Pak-US relations appears more promising than ever. Both nations are poised to build on their historical ties, leveraging their partnership to address contemporary global challenges, from counterterrorism and regional stability to economic growth and climate change. This analysis delves into the promising trajectory of Pak-US relations, highlighting the positive developments, shared interests, and strategic opportunities that are shaping the future of this enduring alliance.

### Security Collaboration

Security cooperation has always been a cornerstone of Pak-US relations, and this partnership is stronger today than ever. The two countries have a long history of working to-

gether to combat terrorism and promote regional stability. The US has provided significant military aid to Pakistan, helping modernize its armed forces. For instance, since 2002, Pakistan has received over \$33 billion in various forms of aid from the US, including military assistance. Pakistan's strategic location and its role as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism have made it an indispensable partner for the United States. In recent years, Pakistan has made significant strides in its counterterrorism efforts, with the support of the United States. A notable example is Pakistan's success in Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad, which were instrumental in dismantling terrorist networks within its borders. The United States, recognizing Pakistan's pivotal role in regional stability, has continued to provide military aid, intelligence support, and training to Pakistani forces. These collaborative efforts have contributed to a safer and more secure South Asia, a goal that both nations continue to pursue with determination.

The positive trajectory of this collaboration was further solidified in September 2021 when the US reaffirmed its commitment to Pakistan's security during high-level defense talks. The dialogues focused on enhancing counterterrorism capabilities and expanding intelligence-sharing mechanisms. This partnership extends beyond counterterrorism to encompass broader security issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, cyber security, and maritime security. By working together, Pakistan and the US are making significant progress towards a more peaceful and stable world. Nuclear security is another area where Pak-US relations have shown remarkable cooperation. The United States has long worked with Pakistan to ensure the security of its nuclear arsenal. Initiatives such as the Strategic Stability Dialogue (SSD) have provided a platform for both nations to discuss nuclear safety, security, and non-proliferation issues. The SSD, revived in 2022, has been instrumental in addressing mutual concerns and fostering trust between the two countries on sensitive security matters. Pakistan's commitment to global non-proliferation norms, despite not being a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has been acknowledged by the US. The ongoing collaboration in nuclear safety and security highlights the mutual understanding that a stable and secure nuclear environment is in the best interest of both nations and the broader international community.

### Economic Partnership

The deepening economic partnership between Pakistan and the United States is one of the most promising aspects of their bilateral relations. The United States has long been one of Pakistan's largest trading partners, with bilateral trade surpassing \$6 billion annually. The Green Alliance is part of a broader initiative to strengthen economic relations, with the US offering technical assistance and capacity-building programs to help Pakistan achieve its economic goals. Moreover, Pakistan's burgeoning technology sector presents exciting opportunities for collaboration. With a young, tech-savvy population and a growing startup ecosystem, Pakistan is well-positioned to become a hub for innovation in the region.

### Humanitarian Cooperation

Humanitarian assistance and development cooperation have

been central to the Pak-US relationship. The United States has consistently provided support to Pakistan in times of need, from disaster relief to public health initiatives. This partnership has had a profound impact on the lives of millions of Pakistanis, contributing to improved healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has been instrumental in implementing development projects across Pakistan, focusing on areas such as education, women's empowerment, and sustainable development. These initiatives have helped build a brighter future for Pakistan, fostering economic growth, and improving the quality of life for its citizens. For example, in May 2023, USAID announced a \$21 million grant to support higher education in Pakistan, aiming to enhance the capacity of universities and improve access to quality education for underserved communities. In recent years, the focus has also shifted towards addressing the impacts of climate change, a global challenge that requires collective action. Pakistan, being one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, has found a strong partner in the United States. Collaborative efforts to promote renewable energy, enhance climate resilience, and reduce carbon emissions are paving the way for a sustainable future. In June 2023, the US committed to supporting Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, recognizing the importance of a green transition for global security.

### Educational and Cultural Exchanges

Education and cultural exchange programs have played a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and goodwill between the people of Pakistan and the United States. Thousands of Pakistani students have pursued higher education in the US, bringing back valuable skills and knowledge that contribute to Pakistan's development. The Fulbright Program, one of the US's most prestigious educational exchange programs, has provided scholarships to Pakistani students for decades, helping to build a strong academic and cultural bridge between the two countries. Additionally, the US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor, launched in 2017, aims to further enhance academic collaboration by facilitating research partnerships and faculty exchanges between American and Pakistani universities. In 2024, the Corridor was expanded to include new disciplines and additional funding, underscoring the commitment to building long-term academic ties. These educational initiatives are not only strengthening the bonds between the two nations but are also creating opportunities for future leaders to work together on global challenges. The emphasis on people-to-people ties underscores the importance of mutual respect, cultural exchange, and shared values in building a lasting partnership.

### Global Health Cooperation

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of global health cooperation, and Pakistan and the United States have been at the forefront of this effort. The US has provided substantial support to Pakistan in its fight against the pandemic, including vaccine donations, medical supplies, and technical assistance. This collaboration has highlighted the potential for future partnerships in global health, particularly in strengthening healthcare

systems, improving disease surveillance, and enhancing preparedness for future pandemics. In August 2023, Pakistan and the US signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in global health, focusing on emerging infectious diseases and vaccine development. This partnership is a testament to the enduring nature of Pak-US relations, rooted in a shared commitment to saving lives and promoting global health security.

### Future of Pak-US relations under new US leadership

As the United States approaches its 2024 presidential election, the potential impact of a new administration on Pak-US relations is a topic of considerable interest. Whether the next President is Kamala Harris or Donald Trump, the trajectory of Pak-US relations is likely to continue on a positive path, albeit with different nuances depending on the leadership style and priorities of the incoming administration.

If Kamala Harris becomes President, the relationship between Pakistan and the US is expected to continue along the trajectory set during the Biden administration. Harris, as Vice President, has been an advocate for strengthening alliances and partnerships across the globe. Her administration would likely emphasize continued cooperation on climate change, economic development, and counterterrorism. Under Harris's leadership, the US would likely continue its support for Pakistan's economic reforms and development initiatives. On the other hand, if Donald Trump returns to the White House, Pak-US relations could see a renewed focus on pragmatic cooperation, particularly in the areas of security and economic engagement. Trump's administration previously emphasized counterterrorism cooperation, recognizing Pakistan's critical role in regional stability. His return could lead to a resurgence of strategic dialogues focused on security and defense, potentially coupled with renewed efforts to enhance trade relations.

Regardless of who assumes office in 2024, the foundation of Pak-US relations remains strong, built on decades of strategic partnership, mutual interests, and shared goals. Both potential administrations have shown a willingness to engage with Pakistan constructively, recognizing the importance of the bilateral relationship in addressing global challenges.

The future of Pak-US relations is bright, characterized by a deepening partnership that is evolving to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Both nations are committed to building on their historical ties, leveraging their partnership to address contemporary challenges and seize new opportunities. The trajectory of Pak-US relations is undeniably positive. With a shared vision of peace, prosperity, and global security, Pakistan and the United States are heading in the right direction, building a partnership that will benefit not only their own nations but also the world at large. The enduring nature of this alliance, weathered through changing global dynamics and leadership, is a testament to the resilience and strategic importance of Pak-US relations. By continuing to foster this relationship through dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect, Pakistan and the United States are poised to create a partnership that will stand as a model for global cooperation in the 21st century.

# Algeria after elections

last week, Tebboune's claim on presidential legitimacy remains contentious. The election process itself, criticized for irregularities by independent observers and even by Tebboune's own party, has cast a shadow over the authenticity of his mandate.

This skepticism is not unfounded; the electoral exercise was perceived by many as a rubber-stamp operation to reinforce the status quo, rather than as a meaningful democratic endeavor. Activists openly condemned a pre-election crackdown that only fueled the narrative that genuine political pluralism in Algeria remains a distant dream. The existential question for President Tebboune's second term revolves around his capacity to transition from electoral consolidation to substantive governance. Can he translate the electoral mandate he received into action that addresses Algeria's pressing socioeconomic issues, while pacifying a populace weary of unfulfilled promises? During his first term there were attempts to leverage the country's oil and gas revenues to help ease public discontent through the enhancement of social benefits. However, these measures, while palliative, did little to address the root causes of the unrest that has plagued Algeria and exasperated his administration. Facing a second term with the weight of public expectation and scrutiny on his shoulders, Tebboune must now navigate a path that not only bolsters his claims of legitimacy but also engenders tangible sociopolitical and economic progress. Firstly, while the nation's hydrocarbon windfall can offer some temporary relief, long-term solutions must address systemic economic fragility. Tebboune's administration faces the monumental task of diversifying an economy in which hydrocarbons constitute 95 percent of export revenues and fund vital social programs. Ramped-up foreign interest in Algeria's natural gas, particularly from Europe as an alternative to Russian supplies, underscores this urgency. However, meaningful progress will demand structural reforms, from efforts to attract diversified sources of investment to plans for tackling un-

employment, especially among the nation's youth. Without such actions, economic stability will remain shackled to the whims of volatile energy markets. Secondly, the geopolitical challenges Algeria faces remain formidable. A growing military entente between Morocco and Israel, following the US recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara, has strained Algeria's regional posture and escalated its military preparedness. The presence of Russian mercenaries in Mali and the continuing political gridlock in Libya increase the burden on the security apparatus, further stretching Algeria's attention and focus. Meanwhile developments in the Sahel region's "coup belt," marked by military takeovers of countries, diminishes the region's stability, and exacerbates complex cross-border threats. The real test for the Tebboune administration lies in balancing a growing militarized ethos with genuine democratic engagement. Moreover, while French and American military withdrawals have been compensated for, in part, by Russian private military company Wagner Group, this represents a delicate balancing act for Algeria, which historically has opposed external interventions.

Tebboune's administration must navigate these external pressures while addressing internal expectations for democratic reforms that have been stifled by an omnipresent security discourse, creating a virtual tightrope for him to walk in a country that has a history of civil strife, combined with a heightened sense of vulnerability among the populace. Thirdly, the enhanced prominence and visibility of military institutions exacerbates this fragility. Tebboune has frequently appeared alongside the army's chief of staff, Said Chengriha, and the increased public presence of the military signals a deviation from its traditional behind-the-scenes influence. Although this overt association might solidify the regime's control in the short term, it risks alienating civilian support and perpetuating distrust among the populace. Tebboune's second term will therefore have to navigate a complex political terrain in which a blurring

of the lines between military and civilian governance might spur resistance. A revised constitutional framework declaring the military to be the protector of the nation's "vital and strategic interests" portends a scenario in which ambiguous legal language empowers the army to intervene in civilian affairs under loosely defined terms.

Amid these measures, the treatment of civilian leaders and activists such as Karim Tabbou, who face stringent penalties for perceived insubordination, serve to accentuate an environment in which the pursuit of a democratic transition might clash forcefully with entrenched military power. In this delicate dance of power, the real test for the Tebboune administration lies in balancing a growing militarized ethos with genuine democratic engagement, lest it further inflame and radicalize a populace wary of authoritarian overreach. The persistent lack of new political figures since the Hirak movement underscores a failure to rejuvenate the Algerian political landscape. Previous crises, such as the 1988 riots and the turbulence of the 1990s, yielded new political movements and actors. But in the post-2019 era there has been a stifling rather than a flourishing of political diversity, as evidenced by the minimal success of new candidates in recent elections and allegations of judicial manipulations. Persistently low voter turnout is increasingly reflective of pervasive skepticism toward supposed reforms, feeding disillusionment and, lately, apathy. With the military still embedded as a key political player in Algeria, fundamental shifts toward genuine democratic governance are likely to remain elusive. Meanwhile, integral regional parties, such as the Socialist Forces Front, struggle to mobilize voters who are disenfranchised by systemic repression, even within their robust base in regions such as Kabylia. Tebboune's second term therefore risks widening the chasm between government proclamations and grassroots realities, a dichotomy that could more deeply entrench national frustration if left unaddressed.

— Courtesy Arab News

Hafed Al-Ghwell

Tebboune's administration must navigate these external pressures while addressing internal expectations for democratic reforms that have been stifled...

IN an election marked by apathy and skepticism, President Abdelmajid Tebboune secured an overwhelming – albeit predictable – victory, clinching 94 percent of the vote when Algerians went to the polls last week. Yet the landslide result raises as many questions as it answers. With fewer than 6 million of 24 million eligible voters participating, the abysmally low turnout is a strange contrast to the decisive result, revealing cracks in a facade of democratic legitimacy. The victor's reelection campaign, framed nostalgically as a choice for "Uncle Tebboune," might have struck a chord with some sections of the electorate but the broader narrative here is one of enduring disillusionment. This was particularly evident given the legacy of his first term in office, a tenure marred by persistent economic challenges, high living costs, severe drought conditions, and wildfires that have compounded the nation's political difficulties. The 78-year-old president's personal political journey is closely linked to his nation's volatile political climate, shaped significantly by the 2019 pro-democracy Hirak protests that led to the ousting of his predecessor, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Despite the impressive vote tally



## Briefs

## Cabinet meeting...

FROM PAGE 01 development said that due to a non-consensus on the draft amendment the Cabinet meeting was delayed. Sources say the special committee formed to review the package proposed to pend the matter. The opposition was of the view that the govt should not do any legislation in a haste. Sources claimed the opposition showed a soft corner for the establishment of a constitutional court however it did not accede to the proposal of extension in the tenure of judges.

## President, PM seek...

FROM PAGE 01 commitment to democracy, demanding more inclusivity and justice in the world. The Democracy Day is observed every year on September 15 since 2007 with this year's theme focusing on the importance of Artificial Intelligence as a tool for good governance. On this occasion, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called for harnessing AI benefits while mitigating its risks. President Zardari, expressing his commitment to democracy, said that the resolution of the nation's issues lied in a vibrant and inclusive democratic process.

## 'Mansoor A Shah will...

FROM PAGE 01 assume the role of Chief Justice." Malik also discussed the limitations of constitutional changes, referencing the 18th Amendment, particularly Malik Asad Ali's case, which set principles regarding the powers of Parliament. He stated, "The Constitution cannot be nullified, nor can its basic structure be altered. Parliament's powers are limited and cannot override the judiciary or dismantle the court." Furthermore, he clarified that while the judiciary has no power to create laws, it holds the authority to interpret and apply them, ensuring they align with the Constitution.

## PTI slams 'ambush...

FROM PAGE 01 Well-placed sources informed Geo News on Saturday that the government, through the proposed constitutional amendment, plans to establish a constitutional court and amend Article 63-A, which addresses the defection of lawmakers. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar echoed similar sentiments in the upper house of parliament, stating that the 'Constitutional Bill' aligned with the provisions of the Charter of Democracy (COD), endorsed by all political parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

## Marriyam lauds PM...

FROM PAGE 01 policies, while, for the last five years, incompetent, inefficient, and conspiratorial mafias played with the economy, causing its destruction and making the country more expensive. The senior provincial minister stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with the help of God, made decisions in the national interest that saved the country from default. Whenever Pakistan Muslim League-N comes into power, God bestows His blessings. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is turning the tide of economic storms, Alhamdulillah.

## IPPs refuse to slash...

FROM PAGE 01 have stirred social unrest and shuttered industries in the \$350 billion economy, which has contracted twice in recent years as inflation hit record highs. "The existing price structure of power in this country is not sustainable," Awas Leghari, the federal minister heading the Power Division, told Reuters in an interview last week. The Centre has time again reiterated its resolve to address the power issues which also include electricity theft, line losses etc.

## Transforming Retail

## Naveed Visionary Leadership at Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company

An In-Depth Analysis of Innovative Business Models, Self-Sustaining Strategies, and Noteworthy Achievements



## DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan – Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company (PMBMC) has significantly reshaped the retail landscape under the astute leadership of CEO Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad. Since its establishment in 2016, the company has overcome numerous challenges, emerging as a leading example of innovative thinking and self-sustaining government projects.

**Founding Vision and Initial Challenges:** PMBMC was created with the objective of providing daily essentials such as fruits, vegetables, groceries, meat, and chicken in a sophisticated, family-friendly environment. Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad, leveraging his 14 years of diverse experience and credentials as a Chartered Accountant from ICAEW and a certified Business Analyst from England and Wales, was appointed as the first CFO. His primary task was to develop a sustainable business and financial model to address the initial operational and administrative challenges with nil dependence upon Government.

**Innovative Business Model: A Pioneering Approach:** Naveed introduced a groundbreaking business model, which involved expanding Model Bazaars to 36 locations across Punjab. This model allowed the company to offer essential items at prices below government-notified rates, making it highly accessible to the public. Additionally, Naveed's approach included diversifying revenue streams by leasing land for attractions such as joylands and food courts, thereby strengthening the financial stability of the company.

**Strategies for Self-Sustainability:** Under Naveed's leadership, PMBMC implemented several key strategies to ensure its self-sustainability without relying on government subsidies:

- **State Land Allocation:** Identified and secured state land for the establishment of Model Bazaars.
- **Cost-Free Land Transfer:** Facilitated the transfer of state land at no cost.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Developed and implemented efficient operational systems.
- **Revenue Diversification:** Introduced various revenue-generating avenues.

**Remarkable Achievements:** Customer

**Turnover:** With an impressive average annual customer turnover of 60 million, Model Bazaars has become a prominent and trusted retail destination. Government Recognition In 2021, Model Bazaars was honored as one of the best-performing organizations, reflecting its commitment to excellence and innovation. Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad's role as CEO was pivotal in achieving this recognition.

**Securing Tax Exemption:** Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad's Strategic Achievement in Attaining FBR's Not-for-Profit Status: Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad demonstrated exceptional performance in securing tax-exempt status for the Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company. Under his leadership as CFO, the company was recognized by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) as a not-for-profit organization. This designation was crucial for obtaining a Tax Exemption Certificate. To ensure the company met all necessary criteria, the FBR enlisted the Pakistan Council of Philanthropists (PCP) to conduct a thorough Third-Party Verification (TPV) of the company's operations and compliance. Naveed's diligent efforts and strategic oversight

during this process were instrumental in achieving a remarkable score of over 80% from the PCP, successfully fulfilling all the requirements for the tax exemption. This accomplishment not only underscores Naveed's expertise in financial management but also highlights his commitment to enhancing the company's operational transparency and financial sustainability.

**Enhanced Customer Security:** The establishment of a 24/7 monitoring room, control room, and CCTV cameras ensures a secure shopping environment for customers.

**Quality Control and Hygiene:** The company maintains high standards of cleanliness and hygiene, with dedicated staff overseeing quality control and customer satisfaction.

**Holistic Shopping Experience:** The introduction of joyland operations and a robust customer feedback system underscores the company's commitment to providing a comprehensive shopping experience.

**Transparent Financial Practices:** The introduction of banking channel payment modes for shopkeepers streamlines transactions and enhances financial

transparency.

**Affordable Leasing:** Shops are offered at nominal rents—30% to 60% below market rates—along with free electricity, utilities, and round-the-clock security, making Model Bazaars an attractive option for entrepreneurs.

**Insights and Future Directions**  
Our examination of PMBMC's success highlights several key factors:

- A customer-centric approach, providing a family-friendly environment and a wide range of essential commodities.
- A strong commitment to innovation and self-sustainability.
- Effective collaboration with government departments to secure state land and implement efficient operations.
- A focus on customer security, quality, and satisfaction.

In conclusion, Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad's visionary leadership has not only transformed Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company into a flagship government project but has also set a high standard for efficiency and sustainability. His innovative strategies and unwavering dedication continue to serve as a model for future government initiatives.

## Saleema nominated as first Pak woman umpire on ICC's panel

## DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's Saleema Imtiaz has made history by becoming the first woman umpire from the country to be nominated to the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires which will allow her to officiate in women's bilateral international matches and ICC Women's events.

Saleema, who's also the mother of Pakistan women's international player Kainat Imtiaz, began her career as an umpire with the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Women's Umpires Panel in 2008. Throughout her career, she has officiated high-profile events under the Asian Cricket Council, such as the 2022 and 2024 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup, the 2023 ACC Emerging Women's Cup in Hong Kong and

national Panel of Development Umpires". "The journey has been filled with hard work and personal sacrifices, but now, standing at the cusp of this new chapter, it all feels worth it," she remarked, adding that this is not a win only for her but for "every aspiring female cricketer and umpire in Pakistan". "I hope my success motivates countless women who dream of making their mark in the sport," said the woman umpire.

"This moment reflects the growing influence of women in cricket [...] I sincerely hope to see more women follow in my footsteps and embrace this beautiful game," she added. Reflecting on her dream, she said that ever since her daughter made her debut for the national side in 2010, she herself had wanted to represent Pakistan at the international level.

most recently she was a member of the playing control team for the ACC Women's Premier Cup 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. Following her inclusion in the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires, Saleema will officiate the Pakistan-South Africa women's T20I series in Multan set to begin on Monday (tomorrow). During tomorrow's match, she will be accompanied by Faisal Aafreedi from the PCB International Panel of Umpires with Nasir Hussain as the TV umpire, while Humairah Farah will serve as the fourth umpire and Muhammad Javed Malik from the PCB International Panel of Match Referees will oversee the series as match referee. Hard work, personal sacrifices. Expressing her views on the development, an elated Saleema said: "I am beyond thrilled to join the ICC Inter-

## Nawaz Sharif in Capital to muster support for Amend

## FROM PAGE 01

Maulana Fazlur Rehman. However, some party leaders advised against it, unless there was certainty that Maulana would be receptive to Nawaz's request. Sources indicate that Maulana is dissatisfied with Nawaz Sharif, feeling that despite JUI's pivotal role in ousting the PTI government, the party was not adequately rewarded in the post-election distribution of power. Maulana firmly believes his party was intentionally denied more seats in parliament. Meanwhile, after nominating five senators, Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani submitted an additional list of more than eight senators. Parliamentary leaders from the PML-N, PPP, PTI, and other parties were among those nominated. The Senate secretariat had issued a fresh notification in line with the nomination of the senators for the parliamentary committee. Maulana Fazal has made it clear that his party would not support extension in tenure of the Chief Justice or any extension in service. Sources say Maulana has taken a principled stand on the issue of extension because next year another extension (army chef) shall be a matter of debate. If Maulana supports the extension of the Chief Justice, then he had to support the other extensions as well. PML-N parliamentary leader Irfan Siddiqui nominated the member of the special parliamentary committee. PPP appointed Sherry Rehman, the member of the special parliamentary committee. Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan was nominated as the member of the parliamentary committee instead of Umer Farooq. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Attaur Rehman and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Senator Manzoor Ahmed were also part of the committee. Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Faisal Sabzwari and Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) Muhammad Qasim. Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) Raja Nasir Abbasi was also part of the special committee.

## Contours of amendment made public

## FROM PAGE 01

the package will not be a person-specific and would give the authorities ingress in the judicial procedure. The prospects of the said constitutional package come amid speculations revolving around extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa – who is set to retire in October this year – after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought an early issuance of notification regarding the next top judge last month. Its key points likely include the setting up of a constitutional court, a merger of the judicial and parliamentary commissions responsible for the selection of judges, as well as amendment to Article 63-A of the constitution of Pakistan, which deals with the issue of disqualification of members of parliament on grounds of defection. As per a report published in The News, a consensus on increasing the retirement age of superior court judges has not yet been formalised, with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vowing to launch a countrywide protest if the age limit of Supreme Court and high court judges is revised. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif asserted that they have achieved the magic number in both upper and lower houses of parliament for the passage of the much-touted constitutional amendment. He said they have completed the numbers game for the constitutional amendment, also claiming the support of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl Rehman after "his reservations are removed". Proposed constitutional amendments Meanwhile, DNA has obtained the details of a 'closely-guarded' constitutional amendment bill – which sources claimed that it contains more than 20 clauses aiming to introduce major changes in Pakistan's judicial and parliamentary systems. The bill proposes amendments to Articles 51, 63, 175, 181 and 187 of the Constitution of Pakistan. It also includes the amendment to increase the representation of the Balochistan Assembly from 65 seats to 81. It also proposed the formation of a constitutional court – which the draft says will hear the petitions related to Articles 184, 185 and 186.

## Campaign 'Whatever It Takes' to build excitement for ICC Women's T20 WC 2024

ISLAMABAD: The ICC has launched a campaign 'Whatever It Takes', designed to build excitement and anticipation for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 taking place in the UAE from October 3-20. Showcasing the dedication, focus, and relentless pursuit of excellence that defines the world's best cricketers, the campaign provides fans a glimpse into the efforts undertaken

by players as they prepare to take their place on the world stage. The 'Whatever It Takes' campaign comprises of a series of films featuring a trio of cricketers: India captain, Harmanpreet Kaur, Sri Lanka captain, Chamari Athapaththu, and India's Shafali Verma, each renowned for their talent and commitment to the game, said a press release. Through powerful visuals

and inspiring narratives, the campaign captures the essence of their journeys, revealing sacrifices made, the challenges overcome, and the self-belief that drives them towards greatness. From gruelling training sessions to intensive competition on the field, 'Whatever It Takes' embodies the sacrifices that cricketers make in their pursuit of being crowned world champions. – APP

## Pakistan to secure...

FROM PAGE 01 UAE, respectively. Speaking on the occasion, the finance minister stressed the need for macroeconomic stability and said that Pakistan has previously experimented with various economic models, none of which yielded the desired results. On pensions, Aurangzeb announced that any new federal government employees would be required to contribute to a defined-contribution pension scheme.

## RCCI elections 2024: executives and women seats announced

Group leader Sohail Altaf said that Mian Parvez Aslam group got 93% votes in the RCCI election, propaganda and politics of opponents have been buried, the opposition was defeated by a huge margin.

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: A three-member election commission comprising Tariq Mughal, Syed Rizwan Haider Mashadi and Zahoor Ahmed Malik announced the results of Scrutiny of nomination papers for the posts of President, Senior Vice President and Vice President. President RCCI Mr. Saqib Rafiq along with Group Leader RCCI Mr. Sohail Altaf, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad, former presidents, EC members and newly elected Executive Committee members, Secretary General Irfan Manan Khan and distinguished RCCI members were also present on the occasion.

As per the results, following candidates Mr. Usman Shaukat (President), Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi (Senior Vice President) and Mr. Fa-

had Barlas (Vice President) stood elected "uncontested" in the RCCI Elections 2024-26. Whereas on Reserved Seats for Women Entrepre-

neurs, Mrs. Falak Anjum and Ms. Naureen was elected uncontested. Hence polling for the election of President, Senior Vice President,

Vice President and reserved seats for Women Entrepreneurs will not be held on 16th September. The participants congratulated the newly elected officials and vowed that the problems of the business community will be solved with the same passion, dedication and hard work that was shown in the election campaign. Group leader Sohail Altaf said that Mian Parvez Aslam group got 93% votes in the RCCI election, the propaganda and politics of the opponents have been buried, the opposition was defeated by a huge margin. Traders and members have shown their trust in Mian Parvez Aslam Group, we have clean footing, we have not made allegations. Excellent turnout proved that. Mian Perwaizalram Group deserves the right to true representation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, he added.





## Briefs

## SUPARCO gears up to mark World Space Week

ISLAMABAD: Maintaining its previous traditions, Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) the national space agency has planned a series of activities to mark the upcoming World Space Week, to be held from October 04-10. According to an official of SUPARCO, the Space Week will be marked under the theme of using space technology to fight climate change. The SUPARCO has announced various contests for the general public in different categories revolving around the theme. The first category is "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle for Climate Action: Show how small steps can make a BIG difference!" while the second category is, "Planting for a Greener Pakistan: Let's work together to plant a sustainable future!". The third category of the contest is "Space form limited: Video Challenge": Share your creative ideas on how space technology can help save our planet!". The students, professionals or climate enthusiasts can participate in the contests to create a better world for future generations. World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10. These dates commemorate two events including 'October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration' and the other is 'October 10, 1967: the signing of the treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies'.

## UPARCO announces poster competition

ISLAMABAD: Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced the Poster Making Contest 2024 for students across the country under the theme of "Space Travel", to showcase their creativity and skills. Each year SUPARCO arranges Poster Competition as part of its participation in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). According to an official of SUPARCO, the contest is open to students aged 6 to 12, with eligibility determined based on birth dates between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2018. Students from various schools across the country are encouraged to participate, with each school allowed to submit up to three posters. About the guidelines, the official informed that the participants must adhere to specific guidelines to ensure their entries qualify for consideration. Each poster must be the work of a single student and be submitted through their respective schools. The deadline for submission is set for September 20, 2024, and no late entries will be accepted. It is crucial for participants to follow the instructions carefully, including attaching a fully completed submission form to the back of the poster and ensuring no personal information appears on the front. The competition seeks to encourage young artists to explore the theme of space travel using traditional art materials such as pencils, crayons, watercolors, and oils. Explaining the rules of competition, the official said that the artwork must be submitted on flat paper, no smaller than A3 and no larger than A2, and should not incorporate digital tools, photo collages, or 3D objects. Posters must refrain from including text, signatures, flags, or references to any specific person, country, or organization. Once submitted, the posters will become the property of SUPARCO. The winning entries will be selected to represent Pakistan at the international level in the APRSAF competition. The results of the contest will be announced through SEAD's Facebook page, and participants are urged to submit.

## Biden to use rest of term putting Ukraine in 'best position': advisor

"President Zelensky has said that ultimately this war has to end through negotiations, and we need them to be strong in those negotiations," Sullivan said, adding Ukraine would decide when to enter talks with Russia

KYIV, UKRAINE :US President Joe Biden will use the remaining four months of his term "to put Ukraine in the best possible position to prevail", a close advisor remotely to a forum in Kyiv, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan also said Biden will meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in late September at the UN General Assembly in New York to discuss aid to Ukraine. "President Zelensky has said that ultimately this war has to end through negotiations, and we need them to be strong in those negotiations," Sullivan said, adding Ukraine would decide when to enter talks with Russia. Biden will be replaced next January either by his Vice President Kamala Harris, who has indicated she will continue his policies of backing Ukraine, or by former president Donald

Trump, who would not say at a debate earlier this week whether he wanted Kyiv to win the war. The announcement of the upcoming Biden-Zelensky meeting came after Moscow and Kyiv earlier Saturday swapped 103 prisoners of war each in a UAE-brokered deal, and as Russian forces continue to gain ground in their grinding offensive in east Ukraine. The Russians released in the latest swap were captured during Ukraine's recent cross-border incursion into the Kursk region, Moscow said, while some of the Ukrainians freed had been held prisoner since Moscow seized the Azovstal steel plant in May 2022. "Another 103 soldiers were returned to Ukraine from Russian captivity," Zelensky said on Telegram. Russia confirmed it had "handed over" 103 Ukrainian

army prisoners, and in return received 103 Russian servicemen captured by Kyiv. "All Russian servicemen are on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, where they are being provided with the necessary psychological and medical assistance," the Russian defence ministry said. Despite ongoing hostilities, Russia and Ukraine have managed to swap hundreds of prisoners throughout the two-and-a-half-year conflict - often in deals brokered by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Turkey. The announcement came a day after Zelensky said 49 Ukrainian POWs had been returned from Russia, and three weeks ago both sides swapped 115 prisoners each in a deal also mediated by the UAE. The prisoner swap came as Russia pushed ahead in

east Ukraine, where it claims to have captured a string of villages in recent weeks. The Russian defence ministry said in a daily briefing it had "liberated" the village of Zhelanne Pershe, less than 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk. Pokrovsk lies on the intersection of a key road that supplies Ukrainian troops and towns across the eastern front and has long been a target for Moscow's army. More than half of the city's 60,000 residents have fled since the invasion began in February 2022, with evacuations ramping up in recent weeks as Moscow's army closes in. Ukraine had hoped its major cross-border incursion into the Kursk region last month would slow down Russia's advances in the east. On Friday, Zelensky said Moscow had been slowed

down somewhat but conceded the situation on the eastern front was "very difficult". "Ukraine has taken bold and assertive steps... but that area around Pokrovsk is of unique concern," Sullivan told the Kyiv forum on Saturday. Russia meanwhile claimed this week to have clawed back a swath of territory in its western Kursk region, as it mounted what appeared to be a counter-offensive. Tensions between Russia and the West over the conflict reached dire levels this week over UK and US discussions about letting Ukraine use longer-range weapons to strike targets inside Russia. President Vladimir Putin warned the West on Thursday that green-lighting the use of the long-range weapons deep inside Russia would put the NATO military alliance "at war" with Moscow. "It would

mean that NATO countries, the US, European countries, are at war with Russia," Putin told a state television reporter. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Biden on Friday delayed a decision on the move. Sullivan, in his comments by video link to the forum in Kyiv, said "difficult and complicated" logistics - rather than unwillingness - was delaying aid to Ukraine. "It's not a matter of political will," Sullivan said. "But given what Ukraine is up against, we've got to do more, and we've got to do better." Speaking at the same forum, Ukraine's intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov said that of all of Russia's allies, North Korea's assistance is the most damaging because of the large quantities of ammunition it provide



Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Senior Vice Chairman Tariq Mehmood of the Oil Marketing Association deliberate on boosting Balochistan's economy through the development of licensed fuel stations. -DNA

## Iran's President to attend BRICS summit in Russia

Iran's ambassador in Russia Kazem Jalali confirmed on Sunday that Pezeshkian will attend the summit of the BRICS group of major emerging economies, scheduled to be held in Kazan, Russia from Oct. 22 to 24, according to Iran's state media

DUBAI: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian will attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Russia, state media cited Tehran's ambassador in Moscow as saying on Sunday, amid tensions with the West over military cooperation between the two countries. Iran's ambassador in Russia Kazem Jalali confirmed on Sunday that Pezeshkian will attend the summit of the BRICS group of major emerging economies, scheduled to be held in Kazan, Russia from Oct. 22 to 24, according to Iran's state media. Pezeshkian will meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin there, Jalali said. Iran and Russia are set to sign a bilateral comprehensive cooperation agreement. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that Russia had received ballistic missiles from Iran and was likely to use them in Ukraine within weeks. Cooperation between Moscow and Tehran threatened wider European security, he said. The United States, Germany, Britain and France on Tuesday imposed new sanctions on Iran, including measures against its national airline Iran Air. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Wednesday that Tehran did not deliver any ballistic missiles to Russia and that sanctions imposed by the US and the three European countries against Iran were not a solution. -DNA

## Death anniversary of renowned writer Hajra Masroor

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 12th death anniversary of renowned Pakistani Urdu writer Hajra Masroor is being observed on Sunday. She was born on January, 1930, in Lacknow, and after partition migrated to Pakistan. Anthologies of Masroor's works have been widely published and include 'Chand ki Doosri Taraf', 'Teesri Manzil', 'Andheray Ujalay', 'Chori Chupay', 'Haye Allah', and 'Charkhay'. She also wrote the script for the 1965 Pakistani film 'Aakhri Station'. Hajra Masroor wrote several books of short stories in which she raised the issue of social, political, legal, and economic rights for women. She received several awards, including the Pride of Performance for best writer in 1995 and the Aalmi Frogh-e-Urdu Adab Award.

## NCRC appoints Sarwat Gilani as Brand Ambassador

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) has announced the appointment of renowned actress, social activist, and dedicated mother, Sarwat Gilani, as its Brand Ambassador. Sarwat Gilani, recognized for her commitment to child rights and advocacy for social justice, will collaborate with NCRC to raise awareness and drive meaningful action toward the protection and promotion of child rights across Pakistan, said a news release. Sarwat Gilani known for her versatile acting skills has graced Pakistani screens for almost two decades working in numerous television plays, web series and feature films. As an activist Sarwat advocates Women's Rights, Law Awareness and has spoken against child abuse on various platforms globally. She is an Ambassador for Special Olympics Pakistan & Indus Hospital health network and Search for Justice to name a few. At an event held in Islamabad, the NCRC formally welcomed Sarwat Gilani into her new role, highlighting the alignment of her personal values with the Commission's mission to safeguard every child's rights. Speaking at the event, the NCRC Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq said: "We are honored to have Sarwat Gilani join the NCRC family. Her commitment to advocating for the rights of children has inspired millions, and her influence will undoubtedly bring much-needed attention to the critical issues facing Pakistan's children. With Sarwat as our Brand Ambassador, we aim to broaden our reach, foster greater public engagement, and create a more child-friendly society." Sarwat Gilani has been a prominent advocate for social justice, consistently using her agency to speak out on issues affecting women and children. As a mother of three, she understands the challenges children face and is deeply committed to using her influence to ensure their rights are upheld. Sarwat Gilani expressed her gratitude and commitment, stating: "I am truly honored to take on this role with NCRC. The rights of children should be at the center of our national discourse, and I believe that through this partnership, we can bring lasting change. Every child deserves to live in a safe and nurturing environment, free from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. I look forward to working with NCRC to raise awareness about the vital importance of protecting our children." Children from the Pakistan Girls Guide Association had the opportunity to interact directly with Sarwat Gilani. The girl guides openly shared their concerns, recommendations, and expectations from the newly appointed Brand Ambassador, shedding light on the critical child rights issues they face in their communities. Their voices echoed the urgency of addressing pressing challenges such as child abuse, lack of access to education, child labor, malnutrition, street children, child marriage and issues being faced by minority children. These young advocates expressed the need for safe spaces for children, better enforcement of laws against child labor and abuse, and enhanced efforts to ensure that every child in Pakistan has the opportunity to pursue an education, free from fear and discrimination. They also stressed the importance of engaging more children in decision-making processes that affect their lives, highlighting their expectation that Sarwat Gilani would be a strong advocate for their concerns in her new role. -DNA

## UAE will not back postwar Gaza plans without Palestinian state

DNA

DUBAI: The UAE is not prepared to support a postwar plan for Gaza that does not include a Palestinian state, Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said on X on Saturday. "The UAE is not ready to support the day after the war in Gaza without the establishment of a Palestinian state," his post on X said. Anwar Gargash, an Emirati diplomatic adviser and a former minister of state, said Sheikh Abdullah's statement made clear that the UAE rejects anything but a two-state solution for Palestine and Israel. "The statement by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed that the UAE is not prepared to support the day after the war in Gaza without the



establishment of a Palestinian state reflects our firm and steadfast position in supporting our Palestinian brothers and our conviction that there is no stability in the region except through a two-state solution," Gargash wrote on X. "The UAE will stand by the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination," he added. Earlier, the UAE called for a temporary international mission to lay the foundation for a new form of governance in Gaza after the war ends. In a statement, Reem bint Ebrahim Al-Hashimi, the country's minister of state for international cooperation, reaffirmed the UAE's support for international efforts to achieve the two-state solution and for the mission that would help establish law and order and respond to the humanitarian crisis in postwar Gaza.

## Italian prosecutors seek six-year sentence for Salvini

ROME: Italian prosecutors requested on Saturday a six-year prison sentence for Matteo Salvini, Italy's far-right deputy prime minister, for blocking migrants from disembarking at one of the country's ports in 2019. Salvini, a partner in Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's coalition, is on trial for alleged deprivation of liberty and abuse of office for keeping 147 migrants at sea for weeks on a ship run by the Open Arms charity. "The prosecution has asked for former interior minister Salvini to be sentenced to six years," Open Arms' lawyer Arturo Salerni told AFP, as the "long and difficult trial" nears an end. A verdict in the trial, which began in October 2021, could come next month, he said. Salvini would be free to appeal any decision. Salvini was not present, but wrote on Facebook: "Six years in prison for having blocked arrivals and defended Italy and Italians? Madness. Defending Italy is not a crime." Meloni also criticised the prosecutors. "It is incredible that a minister of the Italian Republic risks 6 years in prison for doing his job defending the nation's borders, as required by the mandate received from its citizens," the prime minister wrote on X. In summing up, prosecutor Geri Ferrara told the Palermo court in Sicily that there was "one key principle that is not debatable". "Between human rights and the protection of state sovereignty, it is human rights that must prevail in our fortunately democratic system," he said. The ship was stuck at sea for nearly three weeks before the migrants were finally allowed to disembark on the island of Lampedusa following a court order. Members of Open Arms have testified that the migrants' physical and mental well-being reached a crisis point as sanitary conditions onboard became dire, including a scabies outbreak. -APP

## China prepares for heavy rain as typhoon nears Shanghai

SHANGHAI: Chinese authorities prepared for heavy rain on Sunday as a strong typhoon approached the country's heavily populated eastern seaboard. Typhoon Bebinca was expected to make landfall along a swath of coastline including the megacity of Shanghai sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning, according to Beijing's emergency management ministry. The ministry said in a statement on Saturday that the storm would cause "heavy to torrential" downpours with "local heavy or extremely heavy rainstorms" between Sunday and Tuesday. Officials held a meeting Saturday to "research and deploy flood and typhoon control work in key areas", according to the statement. The water resources ministry on Saturday launched a level-four emergency response - the lowest in a tiered system - for flooding in Shanghai and the provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui, state news agency Xinhua reported. Bebinca's expected landfall comes during the Mid-Autumn Festival, a public holiday in China. The emergency management ministry said officials must "pay close attention to the development of the typhoon", adding that "many people will be travelling, mobility will be high and safety risks will be prominent". Shanghai municipal authorities urged residents on Sunday to "strengthen efforts to guard against harmful effects of the typhoon on high-altitude work, transportation, infrastructure and agriculture". Some flights to and from major airports in Shanghai were cancelled or rescheduled on Sunday because of the typhoon, state media reported. -DNA

## Punjab to launch modern fruit &amp; vegetable market

LAHORE: A groundbreaking initiative is underway in Punjab with the launch of the country's first modern and innovative fruit and vegetable market in Lahore. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is set to lay the foundation stone for this project in Lahore soon, said a hand-out issued here on Sunday. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed that the new market be developed into the best market in Asia and has mandated its completion within 18 months. The project will be built on 300 acres of land and will feature infrastructure meeting international standards. The market is envisioned as an export zone and a major hub for exports. It will be strategically located to ensure accessibility from various routes, including GT Road Gujranwala and the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, allowing trucks and vehicles to directly access the market. Additionally, metro and speedo bus routes will be introduced to facilitate easy transport for workers and vendors. - APP



## Briefs

### '18.39 percent Households undernourished'

ISLAMABAD: Head of Policy and Advocacy, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Faiz Rasool has said that the increasing population of undernourished households is driving the nutritional and health crises in the country amid policy gaps and the absence of proactive legislation in line with rapidly changing environment. He was addressing a media session jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and GAIN to explore critical aspects around communicating food security, healthy diet and food system and its impact on public health and sustaining the food systems. Faiz Rasool said almost of the country's population is persistently facing a threat to their health due to poor access to healthy diet, whereas 18.5% of them were undernourished. "Malnourishment and obesity as health risks are simultaneously existing in the country, as Pakistan is facing a double burden of malnutrition resulting into aggravated disease burden due to unhealthy diet. Moreover, 6/10 of population diseases are related to food-related problems and poor quality diet," he said. Since the country is facing nutrition and food safety challenges there is no nutrition policy in the country as there has been no focus of the quarters concerned on establishing such document, he added. The GAIN official underscored that there are serious policy gaps and no guidance available to address nutrition challenges in the National Food Security Policy approved in 2018. Globally, he said 3.1 billion people almost 42% of the total world population are unable to afford healthy diet. - Agencies

### Astronaut mission splashes down off Florida

WASHINGTON: The SpaceX Polaris Dawn mission, which made history when its crew conducted the first spacewalk by non-government astronauts, splashed down off the coast of Florida early Sunday. The Dragon spacecraft landed in the ocean at 3:37 am (0737 GMT), a webcam of the splashdown showed, with a recovery team deploying in the pre-dawn darkness to retrieve the capsule and crew. The four-member team led by fintech billionaire Jared Isaacman launched Tuesday from the Kennedy Space Center, quickly journeying deeper into the cosmos than any humans in the past half century as they ventured into the dangerous Van Allen radiation belt. They hit a peak altitude of 870 miles (1,400 kilometers) - more than three times higher than the International Space Station and the furthest humans had ever traveled from Earth since the Apollo missions to the Moon. - Agencies

# Renowned climbers take part in Rakaposhi cleanliness drive

## Serena Hotels' Green Impact Mission at Rakaposhi Basecamp, Promotes Sustainable Tourism



### CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels successfully concluded the Green Impact Mission: Rakaposhi Basecamp Cleanup Drive. This initiative aimed to address the rising waste issue at one of Gilgit-Baltistan's most popular tourist destinations, Rakaposhi Basecamp, while reinforcing Serena Hotels' commitment to sustainable tourism and environmental preservation.

The cleanup drive brought together renowned climbers such as Abdul Joshi, Sultana Naseeb, Mirbaz Ali along with 50 dedicated volunteers and sherpas. The team worked tirelessly to clear litter from the basecamp, ensuring the preservation of its natural beauty. In addition to the waste collection efforts, 10 durable trash cans were installed around the site to promote responsible waste disposal by future visitors. The drive raised awareness about the im-



portance of sustainable tourism by engaging local communities and volunteers in conservation efforts, Serena Hotels continues to advocate for responsible tourism practices across Gilgit-Baltistan. The Green Impact Mission at Rakaposhi Basecamp is a testament to Serena Hotels' ongoing environmental stewardship, setting a precedent for similar initiatives across the region. Serena Hotels remains committed to promoting eco-friendly practices that protect Pakistan's natural

heritage for future generations. Serena Hotels integrates sustainability into its operations by prioritizing energy conservation, waste reduction, and biodiversity protection, also deeply invested in cultural preservation, supporting local artisans and traditions through various initiatives. Moreover, community engagement lies at the heart of Serena's philosophy, with projects aimed at empowering local communities and encouraging socio-economic development across the areas it operates in.

# CDA finalizes plans ahead of SCO summit

*The refurbishment and upgradation work is going on around the clock without interruption, under the supervision of top architects to ensure state of the art work*

ISLAMABAD: In preparation for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, conducted a detailed visit and reviewed the ongoing renovation and upgradation work at the Jinnah Convention Centre. The refurbishment and upgradation work is going on around the clock without interruption, under the supervision of top architects to ensure state of the art work. During the visit, Chairman Randhawa was briefed about the various improvements being made, aimed at bringing the convention center at par with the international standards. He was briefed that the Jinnah Convention Centre is undergoing a complete transformation into a smart building. The upgrades include the installation of state-of-the-art equipment such as SMD screens, digital boards, and advanced conferencing systems. Additionally, modern lighting and high-speed internet facilities will be provided to ensure smooth operations during national and international events. The ongoing upgradation project covers the renovation of the main Hall, Committee Rooms, and the corridors. The flooring, paint, glasswork, and repairs are being executed to enhance the overall ambience of the facility. Furniture and carpets are also being replaced with premium quality materials. Chairman CDA was also briefed that landscaping and horticultural efforts are underway around the convention center. Tree plantations and aesthetically beautiful designs will enhance the beauty of the surrounding environment. Chairman Randhawa emphasized that the goal of these renovation efforts is to make the Jinnah Convention Centre an exemplary venue for hosting international and national events. The comprehensive renovation is expected to position the Jinnah Convention Centre as a premier venue, ready to welcome delegates and dignitaries for the SCO Summit and other high-profile events. In addition to the convention center visit, Chairman Randhawa inspected the ongoing construction work on Park Road. He directed teams to further improve the speed and quality of the work, aiming for swift completion despite disruptions caused by recent rains. - DNA

# Modern education to seminaries students great service: Tarar

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that introduction of latest knowledge in seminaries and imparting latest education to their students was a great service to the nation. Addressing a ceremony at Jamia Darul Uloom Al-Islamia in Lahore through video link, he congratulated the management of the Darul Uloom for introducing new degrees in various educational sectors in many seminaries. He said this would help equip the students of religious seminaries with modern education and they would be able to join the national mainstream. He expressed the hope that among the students of seminaries will emerge leading scholars, intellectuals, legal experts, doctors etc. He said imparting modern education to all was need of the hour and steps taken by Jamia Darul Uloom Al-Islamia would prove a milestone in this mission. Tarar hoped that in the near future, graduates from seminaries would come forward and play an important role in making Pakistan an ideal Islamic welfare state as envisaged



by the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Poet of the East Allama Iqbal. He said once there was a time when leading scientists, intellectuals, and experts of mathematics were Muslims and their books were taught all over the world and the time had come to revive the past glory. He said his family had been affiliated with service to Islam and Tehreek Khatam-e-Nabuwat since 1953 when his grandfather Justice (retired) and former president Muhammad Rafiq Tarar actively participated in this movement and remained steadfast in serving this mission till his last breath. He thanked the management of the seminary for inviting him to this important event. He apologised for not physically been able to attend the event due to pressing engagements in Islamabad. Tarar assured that the government was ready to cooperate with seminaries for the upgradation of their educational curriculum.

# Three passengers suspected of having mpox sent to hospital

Mpox is a virus that causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions and, while usually mild, it can kill. Children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are all at higher risk of complications, reported Reuters

### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least three passengers travelling to Karachi were suspected of monkeypox in a single day at the Jinnah International Airport, Geo News reported on Sunday citing sources. All three passengers were returning to Pakistan from Middle Eastern countries, the sources added. According to the insiders, all three passengers have been shifted to Sindh government's Infectious Diseases Hospital and they will be kept in isolation ward until the test report comes. The total tally of confirmed mpox

cases is six across Pakistan with most cases reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mpox is a virus that causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions and, while usually mild, it can kill. Children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are all at higher risk of complications, reported Reuters. In August, the WHO The World Health Organisation declared the recent outbreak of the disease a public health emergency of international concern after the new variant was identified. There have been 27,000 cases and more than 1,100 deaths, mainly among children, in DR Congo since the current outbreak began in January 2023.

# Women prisoners go on hunger strike in Iran

### DNA

TEHRAN:Thirty-four women prisoners went on hunger strike in an Iranian prison on Sunday to mark two years since protests erupted against clerical authorities, the foundation of Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi said. "Today, on the 15th September 2024, 34 female political prisoners in Evin Prison have gone on a hunger strike in commemoration of the second anniversary of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement and the killing of Mahsa (Jina) Amini," it said. Amini was a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd whose death in custody after her arrest for allegedly violating the strict dress code for women sparked the demonstrations. The prisoners had abstained from food "in solidarity with the protesting people of Iran, against the government's oppressive policies," the foundation added. Mohammadi, who has campaigned against the compulsory wearing of the hijab and the death penalty in Iran, has been in Tehran's Evin prison since November 2021. She has spent much of the past decade in and out of jail and has staged repeated hunger strikes. "On the second anniversary of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving democracy, freedom, and equality and to defeating theocratic despotism," Mohammadi said in a statement on her official X account. "Today, we raise our voices louder and strengthen our resolve." Mohammadi's children received the Nobel Peace Prize on her behalf in 2023 while she was incarcerated. According to her family, she was on hunger strike at the time in solidarity with the Baha'i community, Iran's largest religious minority who say they are targeted by discrimination.

# Houthi's missile attack on central Israel

### DNA

JEDDHA: Yemen's Houthi claimed responsibility for a ballistic missile attack that reached central Israel for the first time on Sunday. "It forced more than two million Zionists to run to shelters for the first time in the enemy's history," the military spokesperson for the Houthi said in a statement. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. The Iran-aligned Houthi who control northern Yemen fired a surface-to-surface missile that reached central Israel, hitting an unpopulated area and causing no injuries. Air raid sirens had sounded in Tel Aviv and across central Israel moments before the missile landed at around 6:35 a.m. local time (0335 GMT), sending residents running for shelter.

# Direct provincial talks with Taliban against Constitution

Islamabad has time again called on the interim Afghanistan govt to prevent its land from being used by the banned TTP and other militant organisations for carrying out attacks against Pakistan: Hina Khar

### MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Hina Rabbani Khar, former minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that if a province talks directly with a foreign country, it violates the Constitution of Pakistan. "Let state be the state. If each province sets its own policy with America, China, or Afghanistan, it will challenge the Constitution," Khar said in response to a question regarding the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's proposal to hold parleys with Afghan authorities. KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur recently spoke about bypassing the Centre and holding direct talks with Afghanistan to address terrorism concerns for lasting peace in the restive bordering regions. Speaking in a TV show, the former top foreign affairs official said: "This is certainly not within the prerogative of a provincial government, as conducting any form of



dialogue with a foreign state falls solely under the federal government's jurisdiction." "Those who believe the Taliban have not been addressed with civility, threats, or firm measures are mistaken, as all these approaches, including advocating their case on a global scale, have been tried repeatedly," Khar said. Without naming anyone, the ex-minister stated: "It is essential for them to understand the facts and fulfil their responsibilities." Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Friday also backed Gandapur's stance during a talk with the journalists at Adiala Jail. "Terrorism cannot be eliminated without dialogue," the former prime minister had said. Islamabad has time again called on the interim Afghanistan government to prevent its land from being used by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant organisations for carrying out attacks against Pakistan. Citing the rise in terror incidents, the federal cabinet in June this year approved Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism campaign following the Central Apex Committee's recommendations under the National Action Plan to root out terrorism.

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