



Islamabad POST

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President urges nation to follow teachings of Prophet (PBUH)

Detailed News On Page-08

Pakistan seeks stronger US cooperation

Detailed News On Page-08

Anderson emerges as target for MLC

Detailed News On Page-06



'Constitutional package'

Govt to try its luck again after two weeks

Khawaja Asif rules out politics, says amendment draft aims at removing constitutional imbalance

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Treasury and opposition benches on Monday engaged in a heated debate during the National Assembly session amid the ongoing political saga revolving around the incumbent government's prospective constitutional amendment bill. The government officials claimed the package was very much on the table and may be presented in the Parliament after a gap of two weeks. The govt believes within this period it will be able to convince the allied parties especially Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. Today's lower house of parliament session comes after the ruling coalition apparently failed to manage the required numbers i.e a two-thirds majority in parliament despite strenuous efforts on Sunday which arguably centred around Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's assent to the proposed amendments. The session, originally scheduled to commence at 11am yesterday finally got underway late night and was then deferred till today has now been adjourned indefinitely. The possibility of the prospective constitutional amendments comes amid speculations revolving around an 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. There also a proposal to appoint Qazi Faez Isa as the Chief Justice of the proposed Federal Constitutional Court once he retires from the Supreme Court. However, the government needs to secure a

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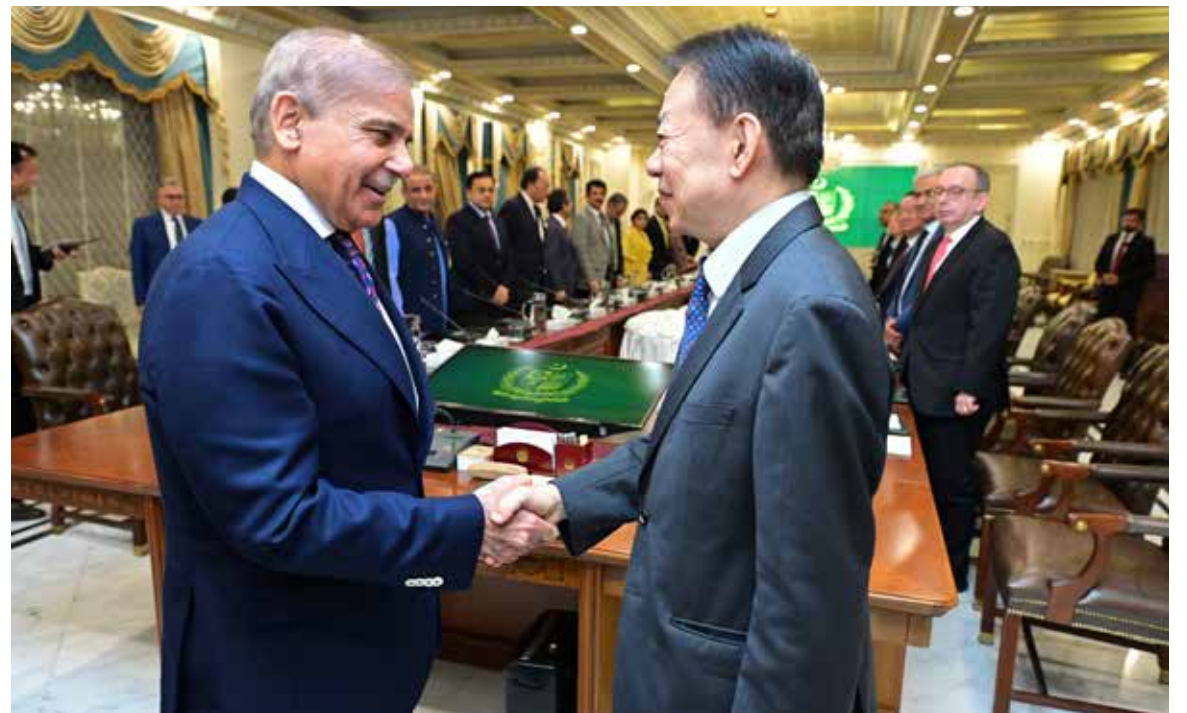
SC moved to block Controversial proposed bill

Apex court requested to stop govt from tabling bill and declare proposed changes "ultra vires" Constitution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: As the government seeks to introduce a controversial constitutional amendment bill, the Supreme Court has been petitioned against the proposed changes to the Constitution of Pakistan. The country witnesses political turmoil revolving around the incumbent government's prospective constitutional amendment bill, aimed at making major changes to Pakistan's judicial and parliamentary systems, which the opposition parties, especially Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

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ISLAMABAD: President of Asian Development Bank Masatsugu Asakawa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

PM to embark on foreign visit on Sept 21

He is expected to return to Pakistan September 28

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will depart for an overseas visit on Sept 21, with his first stop in London. After a two-day stay in London, he will arrive in New York on Sept 23 to attend the United Nations General Assembly session. The PM is scheduled to address the assembly on Sept 26 and participate in several sideline meetings. He is expected to return to Pakistan on Sept 28.

ADB President meets PM ADB lauds govt reform agenda, reaffirms support

The Prime Minister emphasized that he is personally overseeing the progress of these reforms to ensure their successful implementation and long-term impact, underscoring the Government's commitment to sustainable economic growth and stability

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa alongwith a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. While appreciating ADB's long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan, the Prime Minister informed the visiting President on a series of reforms introduced by the Government. The key reforms include enhancing tax revenues, improving

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Govt removing barriers to foreign investment: PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the government is removing all obstacles in the way of foreign investment in the country.

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Briefs

'Stronger Parliament essential'

Says PPP has also reservations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Naveed Qamar said on Monday that a stronger Parliament would be essential for safeguarding the rights of the people. Speaking on the floor of the House, he said, "A stronger Parliament would make its representatives stronger and play a key role in safeguarding the rights of the people." Naveed Qamar said that a special committee had been constituted at the request of the PPP Chairman to build consensus. However, he clarified that this committee is not a replacement for the National Assembly's Committee on Law and Justice.

Vawda calls govt inept

Claims that significant changes in the govt are imminent

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has described the government as incompetent and ineffective. In an informal discussion with media on Monday, he expressed dissatisfaction with the government's inability to pass the constitutional amendment, despite two days of efforts, raising questions about its performance. When asked about the failure to pass the amendment, Vawda remarked that such results were expected from a government that lacked competence.

Holiday Notice

The office of Daily Islamabad POST will remain closed on account of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, on Tuesday September 17, therefore there will be no newspaper on Wednesday September 18.

- Editor

Amid reservations

Bilawal meets Fazl again to woo him on constitutional package

Govt is preparing to present much-anticipated constitutional amendments in the next National Assembly session

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, accompanied by a delegation, arrived at the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman for a second meeting within hours on Monday. The meeting is part of ongoing discussions over proposed constitutional amendments. According to media reports, Bilawal was warmly received by Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The PPP delegation included prominent leaders such as Syed Khurshid Shah, Engineer Naveed Qamar, and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab.

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Hamid Khan hints at lawyers' movement

Says no constitutional amendment is acceptable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leading member and former Supreme Court Bar Association president Hamid Khan has announced launch of a lawyers' movement against the proposed constitutional amendments.

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Pakistan mpox tally reaches 7

Man hailing Punjab arrived from a gulf state and taken to the Pims after being suspected of carrying the virus

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: A 44-year-old man, who hails from the Gujarat district in Punjab, has tested positive for monkeypox virus or mpox after arriving in Pakistan from a gulf state marking the seventh

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Imran Khan claims Constitutional package a bid to 'suppress judiciary'

Rulers want to establish constitutional court as they are afraid of Supreme Court, claims jailed PTI founder

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Strongly criticising the much-hyped judiciary-centric constitutional package shrouded in mystery, jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan claimed on Monday that the

ruling coalition is attempting to introduce amendments to the Constitution in a bid to keep him behind bars. "New amendments would destroy the country's future," said Khan during an informal conversation with journalists at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Taking aim at the rulers, he said: "They have decided to destroy the judiciary." When questioned about his opinion on a separate court for constitutional cases,

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Challenges in Transitioning from ATMIS to a New Peace Support Mission: The Ethiopian Perspectives

OPINION

AMBASSADOR DR. JEMAL BEKER ABDULA



THE changing patterns of contemporary Horn of Africa politics cannot be understood without knowing Addis Ababa's unwavering commitment to peace and stability in the region. The Ethiopian government's determination to ensure peace and stability in East Africa has convinced leading Addis Ababa-based state authorities to play a valuable role in introducing and supporting various peacekeeping efforts and the inter-state level proposal for conflict resolutions. This support mainly focused on the emerging interconnectedness of regional and international efforts to address the question of violent non-state actors in the Horn of Africa. The presence of Al-Shabaab and Daesh violent non-state actors and clandestine terrorist entities in Somalia causes great danger to Horn of Africa states particularly peacekeeping contributing countries. The widespread terrorist activities of the Al-Shabaab group have been internationally considered a serious threat to the entire East African regional security, and the Somalia-based origin of this non-state element dragged the attention of the entire region towards Somalia. The cross-border terrorist activities of this Somali-based extremist group have challenged the legitimate state structure of the country parallel to expanding its activities to the territorially adjoining nations. The covertly designed violent activities of this non-state actor have jeopardized the position of East African nations in their home region by

disturbing everyday life, increasing the number of displaced people, and preventing the chances of foreign investment and economic development. Thus, the transnational violent activities of Al-Shabaab mainly target the countries supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the states advocating the operations of peacekeeping forces in the Horn of Africa. In this regard, Ethiopia plays a prominent role in establishing and advancing the functions of AMISOM and the reasons for its creation in the region to help to rebuild, restore peace and stability and development in Somalia. The Ethiopian government's direct and indirect military operations under a greater terror-combating national plan made Addis Ababa relevant to the regional responses to Somalia's question of peace, mainly through AMISOM. Under different political administrations, the Ethiopian government has always remained highly committed to investing its diplomatic, political, and military potential in controlling terrorism in Somalia. In this way, Addis Ababa became the frontline state in investing its multifaceted national potential in combating the rise of terrorist groups in the East African region. This factor has made Ethiopia a significant contributor to AMISOM, which later became the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in 2022, according to the Peace and Security Council (PSC). The PSC's decision to convert AMISOM into ATMIS originated from its 1068th meeting of PSC, and highlighted the issue of peace and stability in the region generally, and the Somali Peninsula specifically. Addis Ababa's vision for launching direct and indirect military campaigns against terrorist outfits in Somalia was inherited with the objective of preventing the presence of Al-Shabaab significantly beyond Somalia's territorial jurisdictions. For the achievement of regional peace and stability, Addis Ababa's military support to the Somali government remained

vibrant in preventing the strongholds of Al-Shabaab and its growing transnational violent attacks. Aligning with the multidimensional Addis Ababa's efforts for providing essential training, mentoring, and logistical support to the leading law enforcement agencies of Somalia, such as the Somali National Army, Police and intelligence to ensure, defeat, and sustain peace and stability clearly depicts Addis Ababa's commitment to Somali cause. No one can undermine and deny the sacrifices Ethiopia paid for restoring, rebuilding and sustaining Somalia's peace and development. Indeed, Ethiopian foreign policy after the reformist government gave great importance and priorities to the neighboring countries as a result it strives to ensure regional integration and cooperation. Ethiopia remained an anchor state in the Horn of Africa that advance regional integration through policy harmonization and mutual benefits and respect. To this end, Ethiopia's peace and stability cannot alienated from the peace and security of its neighbors. Hence, Ethiopia will not tolerate any external forces that tried to destabilize and create hostile environment and erode the trust between or among the region that has a ramifications on the success gained on the terrorist entities. In this perspectives, Ethiopia communicated to the regional and international communities the serious concerns of Addis Ababa regarding the transition of ATMIS into a new peace-supporting mission with the support of the United Nations and the African Union. The statement recalled the sacrifices of Ethiopian defence forces in preventing the overwhelming role of non-state violent entities in Somalia and rationalizing Addis Ababa's mission for ensuring peace and security in the region. Several international and regional reports and various formal government statements from different countries have acknowledged the critical role of Addis Ababa in the support of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in the Somali Peninsula in fighting against the an-

ti-peace elements. So, it can be maintained that the Ethiopian role must be connected to the greater multilateral efforts for installing durable peace and sustainable development in Somalia. The contribution of Addis Ababa to the greater cause of peace will enable the region to benefit from the Ethiopian vision of development in which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad has already introduced its energy diplomacy with the completion of a mega hydropower project and coupled with infrastructure connectivity, and port diversification that enhance regional integration and collective prosperity. Given the serious threat of cross-border terrorism, it is crucial for the countries committed to maintaining peace in the Horn of Africa to develop and enhance their existing counterterrorism measures. The formal decision-makers of Ethiopia advocate for more comprehensive and coordinated regional counterterrorism approaches, with the support of the international community, to establish East Africa as a prominent terror-free area. Ethiopia's significant contribution to multilevel counter-radicalization efforts has earned the nation high ranks and demonstrated its deep commitment to keeping the Horn of Africa safe from the threats of non-state actors. A comprehensive overview of Ethiopian foreign relations suggests that the country has become a hub of regional counterterrorism campaigns, and the formulation of new or upgraded anti-terror alliances can only be effective with the active involvement of Ethiopia. Ethiopia's active participation in the Somalia-centric counterterrorism efforts could enable the participating countries to achieve the desired objectives from their multilateral anti-terror collaboration. In the light of these, leaders of the region should unite their policies, resources, capacities, and actions to fight and eliminate the terrorist groups from Somalia peninsula and ensure peace and stabilities in the region.

- The writer is the Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan

All set to celebrate Eid Miladun Nabi with fervour in KP

The masses are also distributing sweets and halwa besides gifts among relatives, poor and needy masses in connection with the great day

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all preparations have been completed to celebrate Eid Miladun Nabi, the birthday anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with great respect and veneration on Tuesday. All major buildings, houses, bungalows, markets and historical sites have been artistically illuminated by people to express their immeasurable love with the holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who was sent as Rehmatul Lilalameen (mercy for entire humanity). Like elsewhere in the country, the day would be celebrated across the province including the merged tribal districts of erstwhile Fata commencing with special prayers in mosques for the progress and prosperity of the country and the entire Muslim Ummah. With the day being declared a public holiday throughout the province on Tuesday, elaborate arrangements have been made to celebrate the momentous occasion in a befit-

ting manner. In Peshawar, the main procession would be taken out from Milad Chowk Rampura Gate under an aegis of Idara Tableeg e Islam led by former minister, Syed Zahir Ali Shah where people of all walks of life including religious scholars would pay rich and glowing tributes to the matchless services of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) for mankind. Similarly, another major function would also be held at Gul Bahar Peshawar to be organised by Syed Inayat Ali Shah on Tuesday where people would offer Naat and Darood Sharif to express their immeasurable love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Citizens of Peshawar have also illuminated their houses, bungalows, bazaars, markets, mosques and offices with colourful lights and green flag bunting. Large banners and gigantic billboards have been put up across the length and breadth of Peshawar by people, traders and religious scholars. The government, semi-government organisations, educational institutes, and social and religious organizations planned

special programmes and other activities on the joyous occasion of the 12th Rabiul Awwal. They finalised different programmes for holding Naat and Darood-o-Salam competitions. The owners of buses, trucks, taxis, and motorcycles also decorated their vehicles artistically to pay great homage to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Ulama and religious scholars have been invited to various programmes in villages, towns and cities to inform and educate children about the universal teachings of Allah's last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and highlight His matchless services for humanity. Naat Khawani, declamation contests in Govt and private schools are being held across the province. Vendors have also established stalls at every nook and corner of the province besides procession routes in Peshawar, offering banners, badges, stickers and flags to the people. The masses are also distributing sweets and halwa besides gifts among relatives, poor and needy masses in connection with the great day.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing at the World Ozone Day 2024 event.—DNA

Major operation conducted to end encroachment

DSP City emphasized that the crackdown will continue in collaboration with the district administration to completely eradicate illegal encroachments from the city

RAWALPINDI: Police along with the City District Government Rawalpindi conducted major operation to end encroachments in bid to maintain traffic flow. According to police spokesman, the operation was launched, on the special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani, which was carried out in Bara Bazaar, Namak Mandi, Sabzi Mandi, and surrounding areas to purge the city from encroachments. DSP City, SHO City, and other officers, alongside the district administration were present on the occasion. During the operation, several illegal structures were also demolished, and encroachments that were impeding pedestrian and vehicular movement were removed. DSP City said that efforts were underway to prevent future encroachments and ensure compliance with the instructions set forth by CPO.—APP

Jazz leading Pakistan's digital transformation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Jazz CEO Amir Ibrahim has said that Jazz, a leading Telecommunication Company is playing a central role in advancing Pakistan's digital and financial inclusion. Speaking at a high-level discussion held in Washington, D.C., Amir Ibrahim participated as part of a distinguished delegation from VEON, led by Founder and Chairman Augie K. Fabela II, alongside Board Member and former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Group Director of Corporate Affairs Marine Babayan. Amir shared Jazz's evolving ServiceCo model, underscoring its shift from a traditional mobile operator to a multifaceted digital leader, said a news release received here. As part of this transformation, Jazz is expanding its software, an-

alytics, and data center capabilities, positioning itself as a key player in Pakistan's digital landscape. The company aims to export IT services and generate dollarized revenues, contributing to foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and economic growth in Pakistan. "We are evolving to meet the changing needs of our customers, leveraging specialized expertise to boost agility and foster growth in key areas," Amir said during the talks. A major focus of the discussions was on Jazz's fintech and digital platforms, which play an integral role in the country's digital economy. Amir highlighted JazzCash, Pakistan's largest financial services platform, as well as Tamasha, Jazz's entertainment streaming service, Garaj, its cloud computing platform, and SIMOSA, the company's self-care app. JazzCash, with 44 million users—30% of whom are women—re-

ported a Gross Transaction Value of PKR 7.4 trillion in Q2 2024. Tamasha, boasting 18 million monthly active users, provides a wide range of content, including live TV, exclusive shows, and live sports. Garaj supports 98 of the top 100 companies listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, reinforcing the country's data sovereignty objectives. Meanwhile, SIMOSA, formerly known as JazzWorld, has over 18 million active users, ranking as the leading lifestyle app on Google Play. The VEON delegation's meetings also reviewed the group's global and local initiatives to enhance digital infrastructure, highlighting how these developments are pivotal to fostering economic growth. The discussions reaffirmed VEON's commitment to investing in connectivity and digital services to drive transformation and economic development.

LRH increases emergency, OPD fees by Rs.30

PESHAWAR: The Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Management has increased the emergency and OPD fees by thirty rupees, citing financial constraints. According to the hospital spokesperson, the new ticket fee is fifty rupees. The decision was approved by the Board of Governors, said spokesperson Muhammad Asim. The spokesperson justified the increase, stating that such measures are necessary to ensure the hospital's smooth operation. "Decisions like these are necessary to run the hospital," he said. To reduce expenses, the hospital has halted the purchase of machinery and equipment, added the spokesperson.—APP

Wildlife department foils crane smuggling attempt

PESHAWAR: The Department of Climate Change, Forests, Environment, and Wildlife Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has thwarted an attempt to smuggle 78 cranes from Balochistan. According to the department's spokesperson, wildlife officials seized the cranes at the Sikandar Check Post in South Waziristan and initiated legal action. The suspect, who was transferring the cranes in a vehicle, has been apprehended, and the seized cranes will be transferred to the Dera Ismail Khan Zoo.—APP

Bus torched for hitting student to death

STAFF REPORT

FAISALABAD: A motorcycle-riding student was hit to death by a bus and his pillion rider sustained serious injuries in a road accident in Millat Town police limits. The police have arrested the bus driver after registering a case against three accused. A police spokesman said here on Monday that a speeding bus hit a motorcycle near Rescue 1122 station on Sargodha Road. As a result, Ghulam Muhayyuddin 20, son of Ghulam Nabi of Chak No.5-JB Kamal Pur, received serious injuries and died on the spot whereas Rescue 1122 shifted his pillion rider, Asad Ali, 20, son of Arshad Ali of Chak No.6 Gharbi Boray Wala Road, to hospital in a critical condition. Receiving information of the incident, a large number of students gathered on the spot and torched the bus. The area police immediately rushed to the spot and dispersed the students by assuring them of action against the accused.

CCP issues show cause notices to ten steel suppliers for collusive bidding

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show cause notices to ten steel suppliers for collusive bidding. CCP has issued show cause notices to ten steel structure suppliers involved in procurement tenders floated by various Distribution Companies (DISCOs) for the alleged collusive bidding a, prima facie, violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, said a press release issued here on Monday. The ten undertakings include M/s. AM Associates (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Ajmer Engineering Electric Works (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Khalifa Sons (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Siddique Sons Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Vision Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. AW Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. FN Power (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Gujranwala Cable (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. AH Associates (Pvt) Ltd, and M/s.

Process Dynamics (Pvt) Ltd. The CCP took suo motu notice and initiated an enquiry under Section 37(1) of the Competition Act, 2010. During the enquiry, search and inspections were also conducted at the premises of three Lahore-based companies, where critical documents and records were impounded for further examination. During the enquiry, bidding data from 2015 to 2022, obtained from all DISCOs, particularly regarding the procurement of transmission towers, was analysed. Economic evidence revealed a consistent pattern of bidding where these companies appeared to have submitted identical or near-identical rates, with differences as small as 0.001% to 1%. Out of 357 tenders evaluated, 135 showed signs of collusion, including identical rates, division of quan-

ties, sole participation, and bid rotation. Notably, M/s. AM Associates, M/s. Ajmer Engineering, and M/s. Khalifa Sons were found to have engaged in collective decision-making regarding the rates and quantities quoted, with the apparent aim of manipulating tender outcomes for mutual benefit. The enquiry report found that this collusive behavior included mutual agreements on the number of firms participating in tenders, predetermined price-fixing, and strategic non-participation to ensure that the preselected firm would win. Such practices constitute a, prima facie, violation of Section 4(2)(a)(b)(c)(e) of the Competition Act, 2010. The CCP's enquiry further concluded that the anti-competitive behavior of these ten companies extends beyond provincial boundaries, affecting market dynamics across Pakistan.—APP

KP CM's aide emphasises on local investors to invest in Chitral

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister KP for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has emphasized that local investors invest their resources in district Chitral instead of other cities of the country for the prosperity of the area and the people. Addressing the 'Chitral Economic Development Conference 2024', he said that the Chitral district has great potential for investment in fruits, vegetables, minerals, and other local products that are in high demand in the market, adding that investment in these sectors would ultimately reduce poverty. He further said that cheap electricity could be generated and supplied to the rest of the province and the country through the Chitral, Chakdara, and Swat corridors. Abdul Karim said that the economic activities in an area could change the fates of the local people, explaining that the Gadoon Industrial Estate is mostly owned by the locals while the outsider investors installed industries but left after ten years. He said the provincial government was prioritizing to make maximum use of local resources and facilitate the local investors under its' economic policy. The provincial government would welcome any proposal in this regard, he added. Abdul Karim also emphasised the use of science and technology in economic activities and urged the Chamber of Commerce to have close liaison with universities where many PhD scholars and experts in each field have new ideas. MPA Fatehul Mulk Ali Nasir, Syed Mehmood and Iqbal Sarwar of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT), Director General Trade Development Authority of Pakistan Muhammad Naseer and Dr Shamaila, Asad Kakakhel of Khyber Bank and others stakeholders were present at the conference. They also highlighted the development of the economy through various sectors. Experts from different departments described the development and challenges in their respective fields and contributed to the development of the economy of Chitral.—APP

EPC takes key decision to tackle pollution

Chief Minister also emphasized the need to include climate change content in school curricula and develop regulations for BTS towers. Reports and proposals are to be presented by relevant authorities in the coming weeks

PESHAWAR: The second meeting of the Environmental Protection Council (EPC) was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Amin Khan Gandapur. The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, relevant administrative secretaries, and private members of the council. The meeting made important decisions to address environmental pollution in the province. It was decided to strictly enforce the ban on the use of plastic bags across the province, especially in tourist areas. A three-month deadline was set for the complete ban on the use and sale of plastic bags. After the deadline, strict action will be taken against the

use of plastic bags. The meeting decided to launch a project to convert brick kilns to zig-zag technology. Under the project, soft loans will be provided to owners on easy terms. The meeting discussed the declaration of tourist areas as environmentally sensitive. The Environment Department was directed to consult with all stakeholders and submit final proposals for cabinet approval. The meeting discussed the establishment of a Climate Change Center. Relevant authorities were directed to submit proposals for the establishment of a Climate Change Center or Climate Change Authority. The meeting decided to include climate change

material in school and college curriculum. A committee comprising relevant authorities and experts will be formed for this purpose. The meeting discussed the regulation of BTS towers. Relevant authorities were directed to consult with stakeholders and submit final guidelines for approval. The Health Department was directed to submit a report on hospital waste management within a month. The meeting decided to enhance the capacity of the Environment Department to address environmental challenges. Relevant authorities were directed to submit actionable proposals. A special tree plantation campaign will be

launched across the province. The campaign will focus on schools, hospitals, and other government buildings. The Chief Minister said that environmental pollution is becoming a serious issue day by day and directed a solid strategy is needed to address this issue on a sustainable basis. In this regard, all relevant departments and agencies will take coordinated actions on a priority basis. Chief Minister also emphasized the need to include climate change content in school curricula and develop regulations for BTS towers. Reports and proposals are to be presented by relevant authorities in the coming weeks. APP



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: A view of lightings in connection with Eid Milad un Nabi SAW, in the Federal Capital. — ONLINE

Police chalks out security plan for Eid Milad un Nabi processions

DIG Syed Ali Raza stresses that it is the prime responsibility of the police to protect both lives and property, and the ICT police are committed to ensuring fool-proof security for Eid Milad-ul-Nabi, he added

DNA
ISLAMABAD Capital Territory (ICT) Police have chalked out an elaborate security plan for the main procession of Eid Milad ul Nabi on 12th Rabi ul Awal (September 17) with Strict patrolling will be ensured throughout the procession and other religious gatherings across the city. Following the directives of Inspec-

tor General (IG) ICT Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, ICT Police will undertake comprehensive security and patrolling duties. According to the Police Spokesperson DIG Syed Ali Raza has mandated that all SPs, SDPOs, SHOs, and other police officials visit the procession routes to ensure effective coordination among security personnel.

He said police officials will guide the officers and boost their morale to carry out their duties responsibly. He said over 2000 police personnel, including specialized teams of commandos, will be deployed for security duties during the occasion. SPs will also visit various police posts along the procession route to monitor security and brief officers on effective security measures, he said. Traffic police officers will

manage traffic to ensure smooth flow and minimize disruptions, he added. He said walk-through gates will be installed at all entry points of the procession, and metal detectors will be used to screen participants. Each participant will undergo a full body search before being allowed entry, he added. He said snipers will be stationed on rooftops to provide additional security for the procession. Streets, roads, and other routes

along the procession path will be sealed to ensure security, he said. All police stations will be involved in performing security and patrolling duties within their respective areas. DIG Syed Ali Raza emphasized that it is the prime responsibility of the police to protect both lives and property, and the ICT police are committed to ensuring fool-proof security for Eid Milad-ul-Nabi, he added.

Course on inclusive education launched

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards promoting inclusive education in Pakistan, Sightsavers, an international organisation working to prevent avoidable blindness and to promote inclusive education, and the Federal College of Education hosted an event to launch a new course on Inclusive Education. The event, featured key stakeholders from the education and development sectors. This launch represents the culmination of extensive planning and dedicated efforts aimed at enhancing inclusive learning opportunities for children and youth with disabilities across Pakistan. The course is designed by experts and has been approved by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Punjab University (PU). The Federal College of Education has already started offering the course, further strengthening efforts to foster inclusive education. Prof. Dr. Samia Rehman Dogar, Director of Federal College of Education, delivered the welcome remarks, sharing her vision for an inclusive future in education. She highlighted the course's development journey, from its inception to approval, and emphasized its pivotal role in promoting equitable learning for all students. In addition to outlining the course implementation plan, she underscored key elements such as inclusive pedagogy, accessibility, equity, and real-world applications, which are designed to drive societal transformation. Ms. Munazza Gillani, Director for Pakistan and the Middle East at Sightsavers, offered insights into Sightsavers' mission and commitment to social inclusion, highlighting the importance of this course in their work to integrate inclusive practices in education and health across the region. While expressing her vision for the course, Ms. Gillani emphasized that this initiative should not be limited to the Federal College of Education alone. "We aim to expand this course to other educational institutions across the country so that more educators and students can benefit from its inclusive approach," she stated. She further added, "We are committed to continuously updating the course to ensure it remains relevant and impactful, keeping pace with evolving educational needs and inclusive practices." — APP

Crackdown against telecom companies involved in illegal activities

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office Faisalabad, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle Faisalabad, conducted successful raids on two franchisees of telecom companies in Jhang City and Garh Moor, District Jhang respectively. According to news release during the raid, the FIA apprehended the franchise owner and seized suspected materials, including one mobile phone, two BVS devices and 57 suspicious SIM cards. — APP

Pak committed to global ozone layer protection: Romina

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that Pakistan has demonstrated a strong commitment and played its role as a part of global efforts to protect the ozone layer through its participation in international agreements, implementation of national policies, and collaboration with global partners. The country's efforts in phase-out initiatives under the Montreal protocol to restore and preserve the ozone layer for future generations has been globally recognised and presented as a case study, the PM's climate aide highlighted while addressing as a chief guest at the national experts' dialogue regarding the World Ozone Day 2024 held here on Monday in the climate change & environmental coordination ministry. On the occasion of World Ozone Day 2024 being marked today globally under the theme "Ozone for Life: Solutions for a Warming Planet", she reaffirmed the present government's dedication to preserving the ozone layer and combating climate change. Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that this year's theme emphasises the critical role of the ozone layer in protecting life on Earth and highlights the interconnectedness of ozone layer protection and climate action. — APP

IRSA releases 226,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 226,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 168,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1545.16 feet and was 147.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 91,900 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1227.50 feet, which was 179.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded each 19,600 cusecs. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 156,300, 114,200, 106,000 and 61,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 28,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

IFA conducts 24,137 operations, serves notices to 9346 food outlets

ISLAMABAD: Director of the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Irfan Nawaz Memon, chaired a performance meeting of the authority, during which he was informed that 24,137 operations had been conducted so far, resulting in improvement notices being issued to 9,346 businesses. Acting DDO of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Aneeq Anwar, while sharing the performance report of the authority, stated that the authority has imposed fines amounting to Rs. 14.36 million on 804 establishments found violating health standards. The crackdown also led to the sealing of 172 outlets for selling harmful products. Meanwhile, licenses have been granted to 107 food points in Islamabad, reflecting the authority's efforts to formalize the industry. In response to public complaints, 15 legal cases were registered, following action on 477 citizen reports. He said that with an unwavering commitment to quality assurance, the authority's latest report underscored its relentless pursuit of adherence to food safety standards across the Federal Capital. On the occasion, he appealed to the masses to cooperate with the food department in identifying illegal food production units that were operating in small houses to ensure public safety. — APP

30 new dengue patients in last 24 hours

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Total number of dengue patients has reached 368 in Rawalpindi as 30 new cases have been reported during last 24 hours. According to the latest report released by the District Health Authority, the largest number of cases were reported from Pothohar Town and Municipal Corporation areas with 11 positive cases from each, during the last 24 hours. The report reveals that Chak Jalal Din area remains among top affected areas of the city. The health authority sources informed APP that various measures were underway in most affected areas. Besides awareness campaigns and anti-dengue spraying, CM Mobile Health Unit also visited Chak Jalal Din and conducted a number of pathological tests of the area residents including CBC, LFTs, RFTs etc. The health unit also examined 216 patients during its stay at the affected areas. The report further reveals that 65% of the dengue cases reported in Rawalpindi district are men, making the gender ratio of patients as 2 to 1 with respect to male vs female patients. The financial penalties worth Rs.13.0 million have been imposed since Jan 2024 along with a number of registered FIRs and challans against SOPs violators.

ارشادِ باری تعالیٰ ہے

”بیشک اللہ اور اس کے فرشتے نبی ﷺ پر درود بھیجتے رہتے ہیں

اے ایمان والو، تم بھی ان ﷺ پر درود بھیجا کرو اور خوب سلام بھیجا کرو“

سورۃ الاحزاب آیت نمبر 56

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Briefs

CDNS to attain mark of Rs 180b in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has realized a target of Rs 180 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 10.3 percent of the annual target in the first months of current fiscal year, from July 1 to September 14th. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here Monday. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth in the Islamic economy in the country. Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th. National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target." CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2021-22) which will promote a savings culture in the country, he said, adding that given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.—APP

Stronger Parliament essential: Naveed Qamar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Naveed Qamar said on Monday that a stronger Parliament would be essential for safeguarding the rights of the people. Speaking on the floor of the House, he said, "A stronger Parliament would make its representatives stronger and play a key role in safeguarding the rights of the people." Naveed Qamar said that a special committee had been constituted at the request of the PPP Chairman to build consensus. However, he clarified that this committee is not a replacement for the National Assembly's Committee on Law and Justice. The PPP lawmaker said that no one can compromise on the sanctity of the House, adding that PPP has also reservations about the amendments currently circulating in the media. Taking part in the debate, Shahida Begum said that mutual consensus should be established before tabling the constitutional amendments in the National Assembly.

China Xinjiang region successfully defeated terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: People of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have successfully defeated terrorism and now on path to modernization, catching up with other parts of China. Xinjiang is witnessing a boom in tourism, underscoring the vitality and growth prospects of tourism and economic development in China's vast western region, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. One can understand the quantum of development in Xinjiang by the fact that according to official data, during the first quarter of this year, Xinjiang received 41.0133 million tourists, a 15.88 percent year-on-year

Economic progress hinges on business community's success

Malik Abrar reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to supporting the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in its endeavors to facilitate ease of doing business for the entrepreneurial community

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is fully cognizant of the challenges faced by the business community and is making concerted efforts to address their concerns, ensuring their wellbeing and contributing to the country's prosperity. This has been stated by Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Abrar Ahmed while addressing the hugely attended Founder Group's reception hosted by Group leader TWA, Tarnol Wajid Ayub in honour of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, attended by the dignitaries including Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Members National Assembly Anjum Aqeel Khan, Raja Khurram Nawaz, Malik Sohail Khan Kamrial, Ehsan Bajwa, MPAs Raja Hanif, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Maqsood, former MPA Sardar Iftikhar Khan Mittu, former Deputy Mayor Islamabad

Chaudhry Riffat Javid Malik Abrar highlighted the vital role of the business community in powering the economy, underscoring the need for prompt resolution of their issues to ensure the country's continued progress and success. Malik Abrar reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to supporting the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in its endeavors to facilitate ease of doing business for the entrepreneurial community. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry reiterated the Chamber's commitment to serving the community, stating that its doors are always open to address problems and facilitate ease of doing business. During his tenure, he has made concerted efforts to strengthen linkages for business promotion, with a special focus on tourism development. His main initiatives included conducting foreign trips to explore new business opportunities and hosting Tourism Summits in Skardu to showcase the breathtaking treasures of the northern areas. These

efforts have helped highlight the region's vast tourism potential, attracting investors and tourists alike. He urged policy makers to consult with business leaders and involve them in the decision-making process while formulating economic policies. This collaborative approach, he argued, is crucial for creating sustainable and effective policies that drive economic growth and development. Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, under the visionary leadership of President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, is dedicated to serving the business community with unwavering commitment and selflessness. With a focus on promoting economic growth and development, the Chamber has been instrumental in addressing the concerns of entrepreneurs and traders, providing them with a platform to voice their issues and find solutions. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General United Business Group, emphasized the need to accord respect to the business

community if Pakistan is to achieve progress and prosperity. He stressed that recognizing the contributions of business leaders is essential for inspiring the younger generation to pursue entrepreneurship and excel in their lives. Furthermore, Bakhtawari urged the government to incorporate the success stories of businessmen into educational textbooks. This, he believes, will not only encourage the business community but also motivate young people to emulate these role models and strive for excellence. Nasir Qureshi, Council Member Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), acknowledged the challenges being faced by the business community, but praised the ICCI for its unwavering support. Qureshi particularly commended Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Zafar Bakhtawari, citing their selfless dedication to serving the community and society at large. He described them as a source of inspiration and motivation for the business fraternity, exemplifying the ICCI's commitment

to promoting the interests of its members. Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stressed the imperative of unity among the business community to effectively address their challenges and compel the government to take decisive action. Wajid Ayub emphasized the crucial need for continuity in government economic policies to effectively navigate Pakistan out of its current economic challenges. He stressed that stability and consistency in economic decision-making are essential for fostering a conducive business environment, attracting investments, and driving sustainable growth. Sheikh Aamir Waheed, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), urged the government to prioritize the resolution of the IPPs (Independent Power Producers) issue, citing its significance for the business community. Chaudhry Nasir Mehmood, ICCI member, capably conducted the ceremony.

ANF recovers 437 kg drugs in 11 operations

126 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted in North Bypass Gadap Town Karachi and an accused was arrested during the operation

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 437 kg drugs worth Rs 80 million and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He said that 6 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near M-1 Toll Plaza Islamabad and an accused was arrested. 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from an accused netted in Kalabat, Town Bypass, Haripur. The arrested accused confessed to supplying drugs to students of educational institutions. The spokesman informed that in other operation, 141.6 kg hashish and 16.8 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle checked on Ring Road Lahore and an accused was arrested. 126 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted in North Bypass Gadap Town Karachi and an accused was arrested during the operation.—APP

Gold price reaches record high with Rs268,000 per tola

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices in Pakistan continued their upward trend, reaching a new record high on Monday. In the local market, the price for a tola of gold surged by Rs1,700, hitting Rs268,000. This increase follows a previous record of Rs266,300 set on Saturday. The price of gold for 10 grams also saw a significant rise, climbing by Rs1,458 to reach Rs229,767, as reported by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGJSA). Internationally, gold prices also increased, with the rate rising to \$2,587 per ounce, including a \$20 premium, reflecting a \$10 gain for the day. Silver prices, however, remained unchanged at Rs2,950 per tola. The latest surge in gold prices aligns with the global market's upward movement, marking a continued increase in the value of precious metals.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal getting a souvenir after inauguration of NICAT investment ecosystem. — DNA

Pakistan cooperates with China advancing research in medicine

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan wished to further deepen cooperation with China and other nations in advancing research and innovation in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

This was stated by Khalil Hashmi, Pakistani Ambassador to China while addressing here the 7th Belt and Road Forum for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Development. Officials from other countries also expressed the wish to further deepen cooperation with China and other nations in advancing research and innovation in

TCM, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). At the Forum, Bruno Masier, President of the World Trade Point Federation (WTPF), highlighted the crucial role of TCM in global healthcare systems. "Traditional Chinese medicine has long played a vital role in healthcare, especially in China," Masier stated. "Today's forum is not only about exploring the development of TCM, but also about understanding how traditional medicine can contribute to the advancement of healthcare systems as a whole. We hope to see more growth in traditional medicine globally,

fostering greater development in the medical field." "To truly unlock the potential of TCM, we need to combine the diagnostic precision and advanced treatment technologies of Western medicine with the preventive and holistic healing strengths of TCM, providing more comprehensive healthcare services to people around the globe," Hashmi noted. Co-hosted by WTPF and the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS), the forum as part of the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) focused on promoting TCM and global health collaboration.



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Back to Reality

THOUGH he generally received approval from most sides of the political spectrum and from most parts of the nation for the firm and effective stand he took against an upsurge in racist violence a month into his premiership – proving at least that in the minds of most you still won't go far wrong if you choose to oppose the Far Right – Keir Starmer's approach to the nation's finances has thus far proven rather less popular. In her first month in office, his Chancellor announced that those finances were in an even worse state than she'd feared, and laid the blame firmly at the feet of the former, Conservative administration. The Tories cried foul and blamed both the new government and officials at the Treasury for claims that the successive Conservative governments had left a "black hole" in the country's coffers. However, earlier this month, a letter emerged from the UK's most senior civil servant pointing out that budgetary uncertainties had indeed resulted from the Tories' failure to conduct a formal Spending Review during their last three years in power. Nevertheless, Keir Starmer's dour perspective on Britain's dire fiscal straits hasn't gone down particularly well with the left wing of his own party and has given the Right ammunition with which to attack his fledgling administration. First, he suspended a handful of Labour rebels who supported a legislative amendment calling for the repeal of a two-child cap on child support benefits which had been introduced by the Conservatives as a measure to save much-depleted public funds – but which undoubtedly had contributed to a rise in family poverty. Next, his Chancellor had abolished a universal benefit whereby pensioners of whatever financial means would receive payments to help with their winter fuel costs. Despite the sensible argument that such allowances should be means-tested – and that the country could no longer afford to subsidize the heating of its more wealthy pensioners – this emotive issue was seized upon by the right-wing tabloids to trigger a wave of resentment in the public imagination. The argument offered by one minister – that a failure to take such actions would have resulted in "a run on the pound and the economy crashing" – fell on deaf ears among those newspaper editors who had once gleefully cheered Liz Truss's disastrously misjudged efforts to bring the nation to the brink of fiscal and economic collapse. Nor did the news that the state pension would next year rise by over £400 above inflation – rather more than the winter fuel allowance due to be lost by wealthier pensioners – do much to dampen that self-righteous, populist ire. Indeed, even some of the nation's more militant trade union leaders joined those tabloids in demanding the decision be reversed. When last week the controversial measure came to a parliamentary vote, only one Labour MP voted against it – but 52 of Keir Starmer's MPs, including seven government ministers, were absent from the House of Commons. Although his supporters appreciate that the United Kingdom's economic woes are hardly the new government's fault, even Sir Keir's most ardent fans are feeling profoundly disappointed that it's turned out that he's had no choice but to reduce public spending. In fact, it's perhaps his most faithful fans who feel most acutely let down by his failure to perform immediate fiscal miracles. Many Labour MPs are privately grumbling about the way that their party's new-found economic realism has turned out to be an unremitting tale of doom and gloom. And some are doing so rather more publicly than that.

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The Lebanese situation...



Govt's proposed constitutional package

IN Pakistan's tumultuous political history, constitutional amendments have often marked significant shifts in the country's democratic framework. The most recent proposed constitutional amendment, announced in 2024, promises to introduce sweeping changes to Pakistan's legal and political landscape. These amendments primarily focus on restructuring judicial authority, empowering the parliament, and addressing environmental concerns. While the changes have been framed as steps toward strengthening democracy, they have also sparked controversy, with critics viewing them as attempts to undermine judicial independence and cement political control. The proposed amendment contains several significant provisions that could reshape how Pakistan's government and judiciary function. One of the most prominent changes is the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court. This new court would handle constitutional matters, including disputes between the federal and provincial governments, which are currently addressed by the Supreme Court. Proponents argue that this move would relieve the Supreme Court of an overwhelming caseload and allow for more specialized adjudication of constitutional issues. However, critics worry that creating a separate constitutional court could lead to political manipulation, especially if the process of appointing judges to this new court is influenced by political considerations. Another major provision aims to increase the retirement age for Supreme Court judges from 65 to 68 years. This seemingly benign change could have far-reaching consequences. By extending the tenure of judges, particularly the Chief Justice, the amendment risks perpetuating the influence of judges aligned with the current government. The opposition, particularly the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has expressed concerns that this move is intended to protect the ruling party's interests by maintaining a favorable judiciary. The proposal to extend the Chief Election Commissioner's tenure in the absence of a successor further raises alarms about unchecked extensions of power within key democratic institutions. The proposed amendment also contains measures aimed at empowering parliament, ostensibly in line with the Charter of Democracy, which advocates for the supremacy of elected representatives. For example, the amendment seeks to allow votes cast against party lines to be counted, a move that could enhance parliamentary independence and weaken party control over individual legislators. However, detractors argue that this change could open the door to political instability, as it might encourage defections and weaken party discipline at a time when Pakistan's fragile democracy needs unity and coherence. Moreover, the amendment seeks to provide immunity to the Prime Minister's advice to the President, shielding it from judicial scrutiny. This change has raised eyebrows, as it could limit the judiciary's ability to act as a check on executive overreach. While the government claims this provision is necessary to streamline executive decision-making, critics fear that it could lead to an abuse of power, further tipping the balance in favor of the executive at the expense of judicial oversight.

Scheme Behind Constitutional Amendments

Qamar Bashir



Limiting the Chief Justice's tenure to three years is equally problematic. In democracies like Australia and Canada, the Chief Justices are appointed until a mandatory retirement age, allowing them to make long-term judicial reforms and ensure continuity in legal governance. A three-year term would allow frequent political interference in judicial appointments, undermining the stability and independence necessary for a well-functioning judiciary. Short-term tenures would make it easier for the executive to influence judicial decisions by frequently appointing new Chief Justices, diminishing the role of the judiciary...

THE government and parliament, working in concert, appear bent on laying landmines for democracy and its institutions—actions that are more likely to backfire on them than harm institutions like the judiciary, the army, or others. The government and parliament, which have a vested interest in clipping an independent judiciary, have resorted to a three-pronged strategy aimed at curbing judicial independence. First, they seek to prevent Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the architect of the restoration of the PTI as a political party in parliament and provincial assemblies, from becoming the next Chief Justice. Justice Mansoor is known for being resolute and independent, and his ascension could challenge the government's interests, particularly in implementing the Supreme Court's decision to restore PTI and allocate seats to the party. Furthermore, his leadership could accelerate the work of election tribunals, currently stalled by stays granted by Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Second, the government seeks to almost double the number of Supreme Court judges, likely to increase the presence of judges they have cultivated for political purposes. Lastly, the most serious and unconstitutional attempt involves stripping the superior courts of their independence and bringing them under the control of the executive. These actions not only undermine the judiciary but also threaten the fundamental principles of democracy by eroding the separation of powers. The government, in its haste to bring the judiciary under its control, seems to have overlooked a fundamental constitutional principle: in parliamentary democracies, the three pillars of the state—the executive, legislature, and judiciary—perform their mandated functions independently of each other. Each branch is equal in status and independence, and none reports to the other in terms of its organizational or executive decisions. All three pillars are accountable only to the President, who serves as the head of state. Even when these branches need to communicate, they do so through the office of the President. For instance, the President administers the oath of office to both the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice, convenes sessions of the National Assembly and Senate, and ultimately gives assent to bills, allowing them to become law. While the government's attempt to enlarge the strength of the Supreme Court may carry some logic, its attempt to give the Prime Minister the power to

appoint the Chief Justice, restrict the tenure of the Chief Justice to three years, and hold judges of the superior courts accountable for their performance is absurd, outrageous, and contrary to the norms of parliamentary democracy. Such moves violate the principle of separation of powers between the three pillars of the state. Therefore, the best course of action for the government is to halt these shortsighted constitutional amendments, as it is likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court for being in conflict with the general scheme, structure, and intent of the Constitution. In established democracies, the judiciary operates independently to check the powers of the executive and legislature. In the UK, for instance, judges are appointed through independent bodies like the Judicial Appointments Commission, ensuring merit-based appointments without political interference. Similarly, in India, the Collegium System enables senior judges to appoint their peers, safeguarding the judiciary's independence. Granting the Prime Minister such appointment powers would seriously erode this balance and compromise the judiciary's autonomy. Limiting the Chief Justice's tenure to three years is equally problematic. In democracies like Australia and Canada, the Chief Justices are appointed until a mandatory retirement age, allowing them to make long-term judicial reforms and ensure continuity in legal governance. A three-year term would allow frequent political interference in judicial appointments, undermining the stability and independence necessary for a well-functioning judiciary. Short-term tenures would make it easier for the executive to influence judicial decisions by frequently appointing new Chief Justices, diminishing the role of the judiciary as an impartial and independent body. Furthermore, holding judges accountable to the executive or political entities contradicts the norms of judicial accountability, which should remain within the judicial framework itself. In countries like Germany and France, judges are accountable to higher judicial bodies or peer committees, maintaining their independence from the executive. Political oversight of the judiciary would open doors for manipulation, especially in politically sensitive cases, eroding public trust in the courts and turning the judiciary into a tool of the government, as seen in Hungary and Poland where similar reforms led to the weakening of democratic values.

Through these amendments, the government or establishment aims to reduce the judges of the superior judiciary to the level of civil servants, who are at the mercy of the government in terms of their postings to valuable and powerful positions and are vulnerable to punishment if they fail to comply with the legal or illegal demands of the government or establishment. As a result of such manipulative control over civil servants, the entire civil service has been weakened, becoming inefficient, self-serving, and focused on seeking power and influence rather than serving the public and the nation. This leads to a system driven by personal whims, desires, and vested interests, rather than the rule of law. God forbid, if this amendment is passed in its current form, it would spell the end of parliamentary democracy and usher in the worst form of dictatorship. Ironically, a parliament accused of consisting of members who were selected rather than elected, and who allegedly came to the assemblies based on manipulated and falsified Form 47 results, lacks the moral standing to introduce constitutional amendments until the allegations of election rigging and issues surrounding Form 47 are resolved. Similarly, the government is composed of ministers who are either unelected, or in the case of those elected, are alleged to have won their seats through manipulation of Form 47. The government is inefficient, with the country facing a severe law and order crisis, a surge in terrorism, rampant smuggling, disastrous financial management, dried-up foreign investment, skyrocketing inflation, and a brand value that ranks just above Afghanistan from the bottom. With these issues, how can the government be expected to bring meaningful reform to the judiciary? If the government had been functioning efficiently and delivering results, it might have some justification for initiating judicial reforms or holding the judiciary accountable for its performance. In conclusion, these proposals would distort the balance of power in a parliamentary democracy, erode judicial independence, and weaken the separation of powers essential for democratic governance. Public trust in the judiciary and its role as an independent arbiter of the law would be severely compromised if such reforms were implemented, making it crucial to uphold the principles of judicial autonomy and democratic integrity.

Non-Muslim Perspectives on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The British philosopher and historian Sir George Bernard Shaw in 1936 also spoke positively of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his writings. Shaw, in *The Genuine Islam*, referred to the Prophet as "the savior of humanity." He predicted that if a man like Muhammad (PBUH) were to assume the leadership of the modern world, he would bring much-needed peace and happiness

THE life and personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) have been subjects of admiration and respect not only among Muslims but also among non-Muslim historians, thinkers, writers, and scholars throughout history. Their objective examination of his life reveals the universality of his message, which transcends boundaries of faith, culture, and geography. He is often regarded not merely as a "mercy to Muslims" (Rehmat-ul-Muslimeen) but rather as "a mercy to all of creation" (Rehmat-ul-Aalameen). Thomas Carlyle, the Scottish historian and philosopher, in his famous book *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History*, spoke highly of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Carlyle, who was not a Muslim, praised the Prophet's sincerity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to his mission. Carlyle dismissed the false allegations that had been made against the Prophet and emphasized his exceptional qualities as a leader. Carlyle observed, "A silent great soul; one of that who cannot but be in earnest... He was to kindle the world; the world's Maker had ordered so." The book is a collection of six lectures he delivered in 1840, later published in 1841. In these lectures, Carlyle explores the concept of heroism and the impact of great individuals on history. He categorizes heroes into different types, such as divinities, prophets, poets, priests, men of letters, and rulers. In another famous account, Michael H. Hart, an American astrophysicist and historian, ranked the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the most influential person in history in his book *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*. Published in 1978, the book ranks the 100 people Hart believes have had the most significant impact on human history. Hart wrote that Muhammad (PBUH) was "the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels." Hart's acknowledgment of the Prophet's unparalleled influence demonstrates that even non-Muslim scholars recognize his leadership and the global significance of his teachings. Similarly, in 1854 the French historian and philosopher and poet Alphonse de Lamartine, in his book *Histoire de la Turquie*, praised the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for his profound qualities of character and his influence on the world. He stated, "If

greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astonishing results are the three criteria of a human genius, who could dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad (PBUH)?" Lamartine's view underscores the unparalleled impact of the Prophet on both the religious and political stages of history, even though Lamartine did not share the same faith. Furthermore, Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian independence movement and a proponent of non-violence, also admired the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In his writings, Gandhi expressed his admiration for the simplicity, humility, and profound moral integrity that characterized the Prophet's life. He said, "I wanted to know the best of one who holds today undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind. I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission." Gandhi's reflection highlights the deep spiritual and moral qualities of the Prophet, which even non-Muslims have found admirable and inspiring. The British philosopher and historian Sir George Bernard Shaw in 1936 also spoke positively of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his writings. Shaw, in *The Genuine Islam*, referred to the Prophet as "the savior of humanity." He predicted that if a man like Muhammad (PBUH) were to assume the leadership of the modern world, he would bring much-needed peace and happiness. Shaw admired the practicality and rationality of Islam and recognized the significant role the Prophet played in shaping a just and humane society. Another well-known non-Muslim scholar, Washington Irving, an American writer and historian, in his book *1850 Mahomet and His Successors*, portrayed Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a man of great virtue and wisdom. Irving described the Prophet's leadership qualities, his personal sacrifices, and his visionary approach to governance. Irving wrote, "He was sober and temperate in his diet and apparel, simple and unostentatious in his manners, gracious and affable toward his followers, tolerant

of the weak and ignorant, brave and magnanimous toward his enemies." His detailed description of the Prophet's attributes reveals a deep admiration for his ethical character and leadership. Karen Armstrong, a British author and religious historian, in her book *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*, published in 1991, provides a sympathetic and insightful portrayal of the Prophet's life. Armstrong acknowledges that the Prophet's message was universal and aimed at uplifting humanity. She wrote, "Muhammad's primary aim was to create a just society, in which the poor and vulnerable were treated with respect." Armstrong's work reflects her recognition of the Prophet as a compassionate leader who strived for justice and equality for all people, regardless of their faith. Reverend Bosworth Smith's book, "Mohammed and Mohammedanism," was first published in 1874. It is a collection of lectures delivered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. The book aims to provide a balanced view of Prophet Muhammad and Islam, highlighting the similarities between Islam and Christianity to foster mutual understanding and respect. He appreciated the Prophet's leadership and his ability to unite people. Smith wrote, "He was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the Pope's pretensions, Caesar without the legions of Caesar." This recognition of the Prophet's leadership and his ability to rule with justice and humility shows that his impact extends far beyond the Muslim world. The writings of these non-Muslim historians, thinkers, and authors demonstrate that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a universal figure whose message resonated with people from all walks of life. His life and teachings continue to inspire not just Muslims but also those from other faiths and cultures. His mercy, compassion, justice, and wisdom serve as a timeless example for humanity. The title "Rehmat-ul-Aalameen" is a testament to the Prophet's universality. He was sent not just for the Arabs, but just for Muslims, but for all of creation. His teachings of peace, justice, and compassion are as relevant today as they were over fourteen centuries ago. By studying the views of non-Muslim scholars, it becomes clear that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is recognized not merely as a religious figure but as a beacon of guidance for the entire world.

Briefs

SC moved to block controversial proposed bill

FROM PAGE 01 vehemently oppose. In a constitutional petition filed under Article 184(3), the apex court has been requested to set aside the proposed amendments and declare them "ultra vires" the Constitution, principle of separation of powers, independence of judiciary and fundamental rights enshrined under the law. "It is prayed that the separation of powers and independence of the judiciary and its powers and functions to enforce the fundamental rights be kindly declared as sacrosanct under the Constitution and beyond the power and competence of the Parliament to withdraw, interfere or tamper with in any manner whatsoever," the petition read. The petitioners requested the court to restrain the federal government from tabling the bill, order the suspension of the operation of the proposed amendments, and stop it from being signed into law by the president of Pakistan even if it sails through both houses of parliament.

Bilawal meets Fazl again to...

FROM PAGE 01 On the JUI-F side, Secretary General Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Maulana Abdul Wasay, Maulana Asad Mahmood, Senator Kamran Murtaza, Mir Usman Badini, and Maulana Misbahuddin were present. Earlier in the day, Bilawal had a significant meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House, where the two leaders discussed the political situation and the PPP chairman briefed the premier on his discussions with Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding the constitutional amendments. The government is preparing to present the much-anticipated constitutional amendments in the next National Assembly session.

Hamid Khan hints..

FROM PAGE 01 The march will begin on Sept 19. Speaking to the media outside the Supreme Court, Hamid Khan criticised efforts to have constitutional amendments. He described the proposed amendments as a mockery of the constitution and condemned the potential creation of a federal constitutional court. Khan declared that lawyers would reject the amendment bill before it was formally presented and pledged to conduct a movement similar to the one against Gen Pervez Musharraf. He emphasised that no other constitutional court could be established while the Supreme Court existed.

ADB lauds govt...

FROM PAGE 01 financial sustainability of the energy sector, enhancing climate resilience, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection. The Prime Minister emphasised that he is personally overseeing the progress of these reforms to ensure their successful implementation and long-term impact, underscoring the Government's commitment to sustainable economic growth and stability. The Prime Minister appreciated ADB's generous support of over US\$ 1.5 billion in response to the devastating floods of 2022. He showed Pakistan's keen desire to work with the development partners in climate resilience projects including agriculture.

Govt removing...

FROM PAGE 01 He was talking to Chairman of the globally renowned petroleum company Gunvor Group Torbjorn Tornqvist and Regional Vice President of Total Energies Mehmet Celepoglu, who called on him in Islamabad today. The Prime Minister said Pakistan's economy is stabilizing and moving towards development.

India thump Korea to set-up final with China

Earlier in the day, former champions Pakistan succumbed to a shock loss at the hands of China in the first Asian Hockey Champions Trophy semi-final in a penalty shoot-out

SPORTS DESK

HULUNBUIR CITY: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace and powered India to a crushing 4-1 victory over South Korea in the second semi-final of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy here at the Moqi Hockey Training Base on Monday. Defending champions India will now face China in the final on September 17 at the same venue. The Men in Blue had a dream start to the knockout clash as Utam Singh opened the scoring for them in the first quarter. The three-time champions, fuelled with momentum, continued to attack South Korea's defences and were rewarded in the second quarter when Harmanpreet Singh doubled their lead. The Men in Blue were even more ruthless in the third quarter. Just two minutes into the third quarter, midfielder



Sumit Walmiki made a sensational aerial switch to Harmanpreet Singh, who brilliantly brought it down before smashing a stunning goal to make it 3-0 for India. South Korea responded within a minute

when Yang Jihun pulled one back but his strike eventually turned out to be solitary. Harmanpreet once again breached Korea's defence in the dying minutes of the third quarter and restored India's lead to three goals. The fourth quarter remained goalless despite several attempts from both sides. Earlier in the day, former champions Pakistan succumbed to a shock loss at the hands of China in the first Asian Hockey Champions Trophy semi-final in a penalty shoot-out. The ongoing tournament is the eighth edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011, 2016 and 2023. The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain. Defending champions India won the prestigious tournament last year by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final.

James Anderson emerges as target for MLC: report

Anderson could earn approximately £135,000 for a short stint

WEB DESK

LONDON: England's leading Test wicket-taker James Anderson has come out as a surprise target for USA's Major League Cricket, BBC Sport reported on Monday. According to the report, senior figures from at least one MLC team have taken interest in Anderson's comments last month regarding a possible return to white-ball cricket. The unnamed franchise is now set to investigate whether the 42-year-old would be open to participating in the third edition of the T20 tournament in the United States next year. Anderson could earn approximately £135,000 for a short stint in MLC, which attracted several high-profile players for the 2024 edition. The most notable of those was Australia's captain, Pat Cummins, who has a lucra-



tion contract with the San Francisco Unicorns until 2027. Fellow Australians Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, and Travis Head were all part of the star-studded Washington Freedom team, coached by Ricky Ponting, which won this year's tournament. Anderson, who concluded his international career with 704 Test wickets, retired from interna-

tional cricket following the first Test against the West Indies at Lord's in July. He immediately joined England's backroom staff and remains on a central contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) until the end of September. Last week, Anderson confirmed that he would continue in his role as a fast-bowling mentor for England's

Test series against Pakistan in October, and plans to join the side for their tour of New Zealand in December. Anderson's last competitive T20 match was in 2014 when he played in the Blast for Lancashire. His decision to focus the last decade of his career on red-ball cricket means he has never played franchise cricket overseas, though he believes he is "fit enough" and "good enough" to play the format. England World Cup winners Liam Plunkett and Jason Roy have both participated in the previous two editions of MLC. In May 2023, Roy relinquished his ECB white-ball contract, worth up to £70,000, to sign a two-year deal with the Los Angeles Knight Riders worth £300,000. MLC, which launched in 2023 with a 19-game season, will expand to 34 games in 2025. The tournament was granted official List A status in May.

Ahsan Ayaz loses 247 int'l squash Championship final

Egypt's Mohamed Sharaf narrowly edged out Ayaz, winning the match with scores of 11-9, 11-9, and 18-16

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a final at the 247 International Squash Championship held in the United States, Pakistan's Ahsan Ayaz faced a hard-fought defeat at the hands of Egypt's Mohamed Sharaf. The match was a nail-biting affair, with both players showcasing remarkable skill and endurance throughout. Each game was closely contested, and the scores reflected the intense competition on the court. Sharaf narrowly edged out Ayaz, winning the match with scores of 11-9, 11-9, and 18-16. Despite Ayaz's commendable performance, it was Sharaf who emerged victorious in this thrilling encounter. In the semi-final, Ayaz delivered a dominant performance, defeating Egypt's Karim Elbarbary with a convincing score of 3-0. The scores line was 11-3, 11-7, and 11-0. Earlier in the quarter-final, Ayaz also overcame his compatriot Fawad Khalil, winning with scores of 11-7, 11-5, and 11-5. In recent months, Ayaz has displayed exceptional performance in multiple key squash tournaments. He triumphed in the HSC Squash Open 2024 (February 14-17) and the SOAP Engineering Open Squash Championship 2024 (February 2-5), winning both events with impressive displays. Earlier in 2023, Ahsan reached the final of the Burnt Squash Open (October 26-30) but was unable to secure victory. However, his form remained strong, and he went on to claim titles at the HSC Squash Open 2023 (July 8-11) and the Life Time Petabyte Technology Squash Open 2023 (July 2-5).

Juve boss Motta backs Koopmeiners

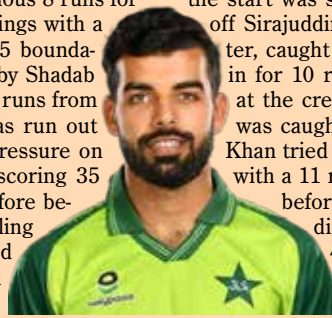
LONDON: Juventus' new signing Teun Koopmeiners has gelled with the team and will excel if included in Tuesday's Champions League opener at home to PSV Eindhoven, manager Thiago Motta said on Monday. The 26-year-old has played two games for the Italian side since joining from fellow Serie A club Atalanta for a reported fee of around 54.7 million euros (\$60.85 million) in August. Motta said Koopmeiners, who missed out on a place at the Euros with the Netherlands after picking up a muscular injury in a warm-up match, is training well with his Juve teammates. "It doesn't look like he hasn't trained for a month. He's integrating very well. He's trying to put all his qualities at the disposal of the team. Everyone who is called up tomorrow is doing very well," Motta told reporters. "We expect everything we expect from the rest of the team. If he plays tomorrow he will perform great. Together with his teammates, he can do great things." Motta joined as head coach in June and is looking forward to leading the team in the Champions League after they were banned last year for breaching licensing and Financial Fair Play rules. "Great pride to start this competition. Then we play at home against a good team. I can't wait to start the match. We want to put in a great performance to bring the result on our side," Motta said. Juve had a busy transfer window with Koopmeiners the most high-profile of several arrivals including fellow midfielders Douglas Luiz and Khephren Thuram plus left back Juan Cabal. - Agencies

Shadab Khan's heroics lead Panthers to beat Lions

Shadab men bowled out Panthers for 199 while defending 283

FAISALABAD: Panthers defeated Lions by 84 runs in the fifth match of the Champions One-Day Cup in Iqbal Stadium at Faisalabad. Shadab Khan's men bowled out Panthers for 199 while defending 283. The leg-spin duo of Shadab and Usama Mir picked three wickets each to set up Panthers' second win of the tournament. The innings began with Sajjad Ali being dismissed for a duck by Mohammad Hasnain in the fourth ball of the chase. Abdullah Shafiq followed shortly, falling lbw to Amad Butt for just 1 run from 5 balls, leaving the team at a precarious 8 runs for 2 wickets. Imam-ul-Haq anchored the innings with a valuable 60 runs off 62 balls, including 5 boundaries and 2 sixes, before being dismissed by Shadab Khan. Omair Yousuf added a quickfire 20 runs from 17 balls, with 1 four and 2 sixes, but was run out by Mohammad Hasnain, adding to the pressure on the batting side. Irfan Khan struggled, scoring 35 runs from 50 balls with 2 boundaries, before being stumped by Usman Khan off the bowling of Usama Mir. Khushdil Shah contributed 22 runs from 32 balls, hitting 1 four and 2 sixes, but was dismissed by Amad Butt.

Aamer Yamin scored a brisk 10 runs from 8 balls, hitting 2 boundaries before being dismissed lbw by Shadab Khan. Shaheen Shah Afridi, the captain, failed to score and was bowled by Usama Mir. Ahmed Daniyal managed 16 runs from 14 balls, including 2 boundaries, before being dismissed by Saim Ayub. Sirajuddin added a quick 19 runs from 13 balls, hitting 2 sixes, before falling to Mohammad Hasnain. Earlier, Panthers won the toss and batted first. Saim Ayub and Azan Awais opening the batting. However, the start was shaky as Azan early, caught by Irfan Khan off Sirajuddin for just 1 run. Saim followed shortly after, caught by wicketkeeper Sajjad Ali off Aamer Yamin for 10 runs off 20 balls. Umar Siddiq's brief stay at the crease ended with him scoring a duck, as he was caught by Sajjad Ali off Shaheen Afridi. Usman Khan tried to inject some momentum into the innings with a 11 runs off just 7 balls, hitting two boundaries before being caught by Omair Yousuf off Sirajuddin. This left the team reeling at 31-3 by the 4th over. The rescue operation began with Mubasir Khan and Haider Ali, who formed a crucial 144-run partnership. - DNA



Pakistan football team leave for SAFF U17 c'ship

The team received their No Objection Certificate (NOC) just an hour before their flight

DNA

FAISALABAD: Pakistan's U17 football team has departed for Bhutan to participate in the upcoming SAFF U17 Championship. The national squad flew from Islamabad via Dubai, heading to Thimphu, where the tournament will take place from September 20 to 30. The team received their No Objection Certificate (NOC) just an hour before their flight. Pakistan, the champions of the 2011 edition, is set to play its opening match against Nepal on September 21. The Green Shirts will face hosts Bhutan on September 23, followed by a clash with Sri Lanka on September 25. The squad boasts a strong lineup with defenders Abdul Rehman,

Mohammad Husnain Saleem, and Najeem Khan. Samir Ahmed, Ubaidullah Khan, Majid Ali, Syed Mohammad Abis Raza, and Umar Javed will also bolster the defensive line. In midfield,

Pakistan will be represented by Abdul Samad, Mohammad Faraz, Farhad, Haroon Rashid, Hikmatullah, Khubaib Khan, Shahab Ahmed, and Mohammad Khan. Forwards Abdul Ghani, Subhan

Karim, Sharaf Khan, and Mohammad Talha Khan will lead the attack. Goalkeepers Adil Ali Khan, Kashif, and Ghulam Abbas complete the squad. The SAFF U-17 Championship serves as a crucial platform

for South Asian nations to nurture young talent and provide valuable international exposure to emerging footballers. Remember, the PFF had to wait for the government's No Objection Certificate (NOC), which is

required for the team's participation, and it was granted earlier today. PSB declined to issue the existing NOC request, instructing the PFF to resubmit their application with complete documentation. The PFF sent a letter to the PSB on August 22, requesting the NOC. However, the PSB notified the PFF via email on September 6 that the application was received after the designated timeframe set for such a process and was incomplete. The PSB stated that the NOC request was belated and did not include the required signatures from the PFF NC Chairman, which is mandatory under the rules. In its email, the PSB clarified that only the signatures of the Chairman of the Normalisation Committee would be accepted.



Govt to try its luck again after two weeks

FROM PAGE 01 two-thirds majority in parliament to successfully pass any constitutional amendment. Commenting on the negotiations on the said amendments, Adviser to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah said that meetings with the JUI-F chief were not "abortive" but they achieved results. He added that Fazl and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had decided to broaden the scope of consultation for the good of democracy. "It is not something fruitless or a matter of winning or losing," he said, adding that today's NA meeting would be adjourned indefinitely to complete the consultation process. Addressing the session, PTI leader Asad Qaiser thanked the speaker for issuing production orders for his party leaders. He also saluted Fazl for his bravery and courage over his stance on the constitutional amendments. Qaiser said the law minister himself said he did not have the draft, questioning where did the draft come from. "The government must bring amendments but first they should be discussed in the House. Whereas, you are sneakily legislating in the night during holidays," he said. He said if the government wanted to introduce a law, it should be shared with the bar association and debated in the house so that people could know about it. Responding to Qaiser, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said the draft would be brought forward once the bill was presented in the house. "If the bill's draft had not been sent to the cabinet, then how it could be brought to the House?" he asked.

Constitutional package...

FROM PAGE 01 the incarcerated former premier has a different point of view as he thought the "current rulers are afraid of the Supreme Court, therefore, they want to constitute a [separate] constitutional court". The cricketer-turned-politician further alleged that the federal government was involved in these practices "to hide election fraud". The major opposition party has been touting for a long time that the February 8 general elections were "rigged" which he said snatched their big-scale electoral victory via "manipulation in the results through Form-47". "They are afraid that everything will be reversed if election-related matters are exposed," he added. Announcing his future strategy, the PTI founder said that his party would never remain silent and register a strong protest against the coalition government's moves. Treasury and opposition benches have engaged in a tug-of-war in both houses of the parliament over the incumbent government's prospective constitutional amendment bill which allegedly includes legislation to extend the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa - who is set to retire in October this year - as well as the retirement age of the judges.

Pakistan mpox tally reaches 7

FROM PAGE 01 mpox case in the country this year and the sixth since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an emergency last month. The patient, who landed at Islamabad Airport on September 14 (Saturday), was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) after being suspected of carrying the virus. The health officials confirmed that samples sent to the NIH tested positive for mpox. The patient is reported to be in stable condition. "This is the seventh confirmed case of mpox in Pakistan this year," said a health official in the federal health ministry. "Five previous cases were confirmed at the Khyber Medical University laboratory in Peshawar, while this latest patient is being treated in Islamabad," the official said. 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.

Briefs

Putin orders
army to
increase
troop size

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Monday increasing the number of soldiers in the Russian military by 180,000, bringing the total number of active servicemen to 1.5 million for this upcoming winter. The decree, which takes effect Dec. 1, sets the overall number of military personnel within Russia's army at 2,389,139, including 1.5 million servicemen. It also marks the third expansion of the military since Putin launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Prior troop increases included 137,000 in August 2022 and another 170,000 last December. The latest expansion comes as Putin intensifies warnings that letting Ukraine use longer-range weapons to strike targets deep inside his country would put NATO "at war" with Russia. The Russian leader has repeatedly cautioned that Western military support for Ukraine could lead to a nuclear confrontation. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged Western powers, particularly the U.K. and U.S., to permit the use of British Storm Shadow missiles and U.S.-made ATACMS missiles to target inside Russian territory.—Agencies

Netanyahu
plans to
dismiss his
defense
minister

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is planning to dismiss Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and replace him with Gideon Sa'ar, leader of the National Right Party, according to Israeli media on Monday. Disagreements between Netanyahu and Gallant have surfaced over the government's approach to the growing border escalation with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon as Gallant advocates exhausting diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions, while Netanyahu is pushing for a large-scale military campaign. "Negotiations between Netanyahu's team and Sa'ar are ongoing to replace Gallant," the Israeli public broadcaster KAN said. Sources in Netanyahu's Likud Party, however, denied that any formal agreement has been reached. Netanyahu's office issued a statement denying media reports about negotiations with Sa'ar to replace Gallant as defense minister. Israeli Channel 12, citing unnamed sources close to Sa'ar, said, "There was nothing new in the matter." Sa'ar, a former Likud member, founded his own party after splitting from Netanyahu in 2020 and has reemerged as a key figure in Israeli politics.—APP

US Secret
Service
'needs more
help'

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden said Monday that the US Secret Service "needs more help" one day after a second apparent assassination attempt on ex-President Donald Trump's life. Trump was the target of what the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said "appears to be an attempted assassination" at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida on Sunday. Law enforcement officials in Florida told reporters that they apprehended a suspect who was spotted by US Secret Service agents with an AK-47-style assault rifle outside Trump's golf club. The suspect was identified as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii. The New York Times and Fox News reported, citing unnamed law enforcement officials. Routh previously told The New York Times that he went to Ukraine soon after the start of Russia's "special military operation" in February 2022 to encourage people to fight for the country.—APP

Iran ready to negotiate,
will never bow to bullying

"We have very good relations with China and a large part of our relationship is with China, Russia and the neighboring countries"

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian says Tehran is ready to negotiate with the West and remains committed to all international regulations, but will never bow to pressure. He made the remarks on Monday while addressing Iranian and foreign reporters during his first press conference since he took office late August. He said that his administration will negotiate with the West on contentious issues and expand relations with neighboring countries to improve the economy and achieve long-term objectives. However, he added that the United States first needs to prove it is prepared to negotiate in good faith and is committed to its international obligations. The president noted that so far the Americans have "closed all avenues to us," Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran is committed to the agreements it signed with the US and Europe. "We do not seek atomic weapons, but they (the West) are threatening us and say Iran should not possess any missile." He said Iran will pursue every possible path leading to the re-



moval of obstacles. At the first step, the president said, Iran will create common views and language with its neighboring countries to establish a region full of peace and tranquility. It is the foreign powers which are hindering the establishment of peace in the region by creating economic, cultural and ethnic conflicts, Pezeshkian said. He underscored the need for Iran to

remain strong, saying, "We need defense power to maintain security of our people and country." Pezeshkian hailed Iran's relations with China and said Tehran is determined to implement the 25-year partnership agreement with Beijing. "We have very good relations with China and a large part of our relationship is with China, Russia and the neighboring countries."

Iran and China signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in a bid to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. The deal, which had been announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran back in 2016, sets the outlines of Sino-Iranian cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and interna-

tional domains for the period in question. Pezeshkian said China took a "major step" in mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume mutual relations and creating coordination in the region. He said Iran's cooperation with regional countries via connecting corridors can improve the access of Iran and China to the respective markets through the Silk Road. The Iranian president described China as a "strategic" partner and vowed to further develop ties between the two countries. The Iranian president said his attendance at the 2024 meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York will be "to defend the rights of our people because we do favor peace and not war." Asked about the possibility of his meeting with the US president, Pezeshkian said the United States must prove its sincerity in practice. The Iranian president said Tehran should see whether or not Washington is committed to its obligations. "Americans must show that they are not hostile to us. We did not set up bases around their country and did not impose sanctions on them. Rather, we are brothers with the American people," Pezeshkian stated.

Death toll, displacement
mount as storm lashes Europe

BUDAPEST: The death toll from a storm, torrential rain and floods climbed to 15 while thousands more were displaced Monday in parts of Eastern and Central Europe. Extreme rainfall due to Storm Boris has lashed Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, southern Germany and parts of Austria in recent days. In eastern Romania's Galati County, the country's worst-affected region, heavy rains have caused widespread damage, impacting about 5,000 homes and leaving at least 25,000 people without power. Romania's Department for Emergency Situations confirmed the recovery of six bodies, including three older women and one man over the past two days. Romanian President Klaus Iohannis lamented the situation, saying, "We are again facing the effects of climate change, which are increasingly present on the European continent, with dramatic consequences." In 19 parts of the country, teams have rescued hundreds of people. "This is a catastrophe of epic proportions," The Guardian quoted Emil Dragomir, the mayor of Slobozia Conachi, a village in Galati where 700 homes had reportedly been flooded. In the Czech Republic, heavy rains for three consecutive days and flooding have predominantly affected the north, with over 50,000 houses losing power. While authorities reported one dead, they also said seven people are missing in the country, according to the British daily, The Guardian. Flood risks remain critical for rivers like Odra, Opava, Branna and Novohradka, particularly in Jeseniky and Pardubice, according to Radio Prague International. Although water levels are dropping in the upper river courses, the flood wave continues downstream, threatening lower areas such as Uhretice and Chroustovice, it added. "Evacuations are underway in Opava, Krnov, Ostrava, Jesenik, Frydlantsk and other places. Over 12,000 people were evacuated. A state of danger was declared in Frydlantska," Prime Minister Petr Fiala said on X. "In total, since the beginning of the flood, firefighters intervened in 7,884 incidents," he stated. "The risk of water and food contamination during floods is high," he warned, calling on the citizens to "observe hygiene, drink only bottled water and do not use flooded food." Austria has also been severely impacted, with 24 villages in Lower Austria declared "disaster zones" and evacuation orders issued while the death toll rose to three, the country's Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler said on X. "We have just received the terrible news of two more fatalities in Lower Austria," he stated, expressing his "thoughts and deepest sympathy" for the relatives, families and friends of the deceased. "The situation in the areas affected by the #Hochwasser (flood) remains very critical," he warned, calling on the whole country to "follow the instructions of the emergency services on site." He had said Sunday that a firefighter had died tackling flooding in Lower Austria, as authorities declared the province, which surrounds the capital, Vienna, a disaster area.—Agencies

UN refugee calls
for 'humanitarian
pauses'

NEW YORK: The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) called Monday for "humanitarian pauses" to provide children in the Gaza Strip with a second dose of polio vaccines. Around 560,000 Palestinian children under 10 received the first dose as part of a polio vaccination campaign on Sept. 1-12, according to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "UNRWA and partners vaccinated hundreds of thousands of children, reaching 90% vaccination coverage," UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini posted on X. "Our next challenge is to provide children with their second dose at the end of September," he said. The UNRWA chief said the first phase of the polio vaccination campaign showed that "when there is a political will, assistance can be provided without disruption." "While new pauses will be needed to undertake the campaign safely, what people in Gaza urgently need, wherever they are is cease-fire now." On multiple occasions, the Israeli army halted UN vehicles carrying vaccines and fuel amid its deadly offensive on the Gaza Strip. Last month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a seven-day humanitarian cease-fire to allow the vaccination of 640,000 children. The appeal followed the detection of the first confirmed polio case in Gaza. Israel has continued its brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip following an attack by the Palestinian group Hamas last Oct. 7, despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire. More than 41,200 people, mostly women and children, have since been killed and over 95,400 injured, according to local health authorities. The Israeli onslaught has displaced almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water and medicine.—Agencies

Starmmer seeks immigration
lessons from Meloni

WEB DESK

ROME: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has met with his Italian counterpart, Giorgia Meloni, in Rome to discuss ways of tackling irregular immigration. Before the meeting on Monday, the United Kingdom's premier said he wanted to "understand" the "dramatic reduction" in migrant arrival numbers in Italy. The visit with the far-right Italian leader has attracted criticism from members of Starmer's left-leaning Labour Party. Starmer also visited a national immigration coordination centre with Italy's interior minister, Matteo Piantedosi. Since Labour won elections in July, Starmer has promised to fight illegal immigration despite rejecting the previous Conservative government's plan to fly asylum seekers to Rwanda. His meeting with Meloni, who heads the far-right



anti-immigration Brothers of Italy party, has sparked criticism. Labour MP Kim Johnson told The Guardian newspaper it was "disturbing" to see Starmer "seeking to learn lessons from a neo-fascist government". Johnson noted that the visit came shortly after the UK was rocked by far-right riots

during which mosques and migrant accommodation centres were targeted. The arrival of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in small boats from France remains a perilous issue for Britain's political parties. More than 22,000 people have made the dangerous crossing of

the English Channel so far this year, a slight increase from the same period in 2023. Several dozen have perished, including eight killed when a boat carrying about 60 people ran aground on rocks late on Saturday. The same day, 14 boats carrying 801 people reached Britain.

Japan celebrates historic Emmys triumph for 'Shogun'

OSAKA: Japan celebrated on Monday the record-breaking Emmy Awards triumph of "Shogun", although many confessed not having watched the series about the country's warring dynasties in the feudal era. "Shogun" smashed all-time records at the television awards in Los Angeles on Sunday, taking home an astounding 18 statuettes and becoming the first non-English-language winner of the highly coveted award for best drama series. Lead Hiroyuki Sanada, who played Lord Toranaga, became the first Japanese actor to win an Emmy, while Anna Sawai achieved the same for her performance as Lady Mariko. "As a Japanese, I'm happy Sanada won," Kiyoko Kanda, a 70-year-old pensioner, told AFP in Tokyo. "He worked so hard since he moved to Los Angeles," she said. "In 'Last Samurai', Tom Cruise was the lead, but it's exciting Sanada is the main character in 'Shogun'," Kanda added. But she admitted that she only watched the trailer. The series is

available only on Disney's streaming platform, which is relatively new in Japan. "I want to watch it. I'm curious to know how Japan is portrayed," Kanda said. Otsuka, who declined to give her first name, said she, too, has not watched the show. "But I saw the news and I'm happy he won." Sanada, now 63, began his acting career at the age of five in Tokyo and moved to LA after appearing

in "Last Samurai" in 2003. The words "historic achievements" and "Hiroyuki Sanada" were trending on X in Japanese, while Sanada's speech at the awards racked up tens of thousands of views. Yusuke Takizawa, 41, also only watched a trailer but he said he was amazed by the quality of the show. "I was impressed by the high-spirited acting, the attention to detail and the film

technology," Takizawa told AFP outside Osaka Castle, a major historical location for the series. "I think many young people will want to try their hand in Hollywood after watching Sanada," he said. Tourists at the castle also welcomed the record Emmy win. "I think was the best TV show that I've seen this year," said Zara Ferjani, a visitor from London. "I thought it was amazing... The direction was beautiful, and I really enjoyed watching something that wasn't in English as well," the 33-year-old said. She said she had planned to watch "Shogun" after returning home from Japan. "But one of my friends strongly advised me to watch it beforehand, just to appreciate the culture more and definitely Osaka Castle more," she added. Many in the Japanese film industry were also jubilant. "He won after many years of trying hard in Hollywood. It's too cool," wrote Shinichiro Ueda, director of the hit low-budget film "One Cut of the Dead", on X. Video game creator and mov-

ie fan Hideo Kojima, who has described the show as "Game of Thrones in 17th-century Japan", reposted a news story on the win. The drama, adapted from a popular novel by James Clavell and filmed in Canada, tells the tale of Lord Toranaga, who fights for his life against his enemies alongside Mariko and British sailor John Blackthorne. A previous TV adaptation made in 1980 was centred on Blackthorne's perspective. But the new "Shogun" breaks away from decades of cliched and often bungled depictions of Japan in Western cinema, with Japanese spoken throughout most of the show. Sanada, who also co-produced the drama, is credited with bringing a new level of cultural and historical authenticity to "Shogun". An army of experts, including several wig technicians from Japan, worked behind the scenes to make the series realistic, poring over sets, costumes and the actors' movements.—Agencies

Ex-BBC
presenter
gets jail
sentence

LONDON: Former BBC News presenter Huw Edwards has been given a suspended six-month jail sentence for child abuse image offenses on Monday. Edwards, one of the UK's leading television news anchors, had pleaded guilty to three counts of "making" indecent images of children. The 63-year-old presenter was arrested last November by Metropolitan Police. During the hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London, Judge Paul Goldspring called his crimes "extremely serious offenses," but decided that Edwards did not present a risk or danger to children. Edwards' "long-earned reputation is in tatters," said the judge. Part of the sentence includes a sex offender treatment program and 25 rehabilitation sessions, with Edwards required to sign the sex offenders' register for seven years and pay £3,128 (\$4,128) in costs and a victim surcharge. The court heard that Edwards paid up to £1,500 (nearly \$2,000) to Alex William, a convicted pedophile, who sent him dozens of illegal images over WhatsApp, seven of which were of the most serious type. The offenses are alleged to have occurred from 2020 to 2022 and involve 41 images shared on a WhatsApp chat.—APP

Japanese elderly working
population
hits record
high

MONITORING DESK

TOKYO: Amid labor shortages, Japan's working elderly population has hit an all-time high, according to new data. The country's elderly working population stood at a record 9.14 million last year, according to the country's Internal Affairs Ministry. Japan's total elderly population, aged 65 and above, was recorded at 36.25 million, with 25.2% employed, the public broadcaster NHK reported. Some 15.72 million of the total elderly population were men. The ministry data showed that the number of working elderly men shrank by 40,000 from the previous year to 5.34 million, while the number of working women rose by 50,000 to 3.8 million. As Japan marks Respect for the Aged Day on Monday, the country recorded its largest population decrease in history last year, with a significant drop of 861,000 residents. This demographic shift, observed across various provinces, highlights the nation's ongoing challenges with an aging population and declining birth rates. The population decreased from 122.42 million in 2022 to 121.56 million in 2023, said the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications early this year in July. This marked the 15th consecutive year of decline and the largest drop since the survey began in 1968.

Yen rises
above 140
per US dollar
ahead of Fed
decision

HONG KONG: The yen strengthened on Monday to less than 140 per dollar ahead of a Federal Reserve policy meeting this week that is widely expected to see US officials cut interest rates. The Japanese unit hit 139.96 to the greenback, its strongest level since July 2023, as traders assess the US central bank's plans for rates, with debate centring on whether it will lower them by 25 or 50 basis points. The yen has soared since hitting a near four-decade low of 161.95 in July, prompting authorities to intervene in currency markets. A decision by the Bank of Japan to begin moving away from years of ultra-low rates has also added to the unit's strength. The BoJ is also due to deliver its own policy announcement on Friday, with most analysts expecting it to hold rates after a surprise hike at the end of July sparked turmoil on markets. The move led to investors unwinding their so-called carry trades in which they used the cheap currency to buy high yielding assets like stocks.—APP

Briefs

Pak-Indonesia joint military exercise concludes

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A joint exercise was conducted between Pakistan Army and Indonesian armed forces at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi, on Monday. Exercise Elang Strike-II is second exercise in Counter Terrorism domain between both the countries, said ISPR in a statement. The week-long exercise commenced on September 8, 2024. The exercise was aimed at mutually beneficial sharing of experience and training methodology between the two armies which have strong brotherly relations. At the closing ceremony, General Officer Commanding 17 Division was the Chief Guest. Colonel Budi Wirman, Defence Attaché of Indonesia also attended the closing ceremony. The troops displayed highest standards of professional excellence during the conduct of exercise.

PTI moves LHC for permission to hold rally

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The PTI has approached the Lahore High Court seeking permission for a rally in Lahore on Sept 21. The petition was filed in the Lahore High Court by Aliya Hamza and Imtiaz Mahmood Sheikh on behalf of PTI, naming the deputy commissioner of Lahore, the Punjab government, and others as respondents. The petition argues that while Maulana Fazlur Rehman was allowed to hold a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan, PTI is being denied the same, which is unconstitutional. Denial of permission for the rally is a violation of fundamental rights, it added.

Sarfaraz Domki passes away in Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Balochistan Local Government Minister Sardar Sarfaraz ChakarDomki passed away at a hospital in Karachi on Monday. The PPP leader was a member of the Provincial Assembly from PB-8 Sibi and had been undergoing treatment for liver disease. His body is being taken to his hometown, Lehri, where the funeral will be held. Sardar Sarfaraz Domki, a PPPP candidate, had won the Balochistan Assembly election from PB-08 Sibi with 27,677 votes, defeating Independent candidate Mir Muhammad Asghar Khan Marri, who secured 23,769 votes.

Pakistan seeks stronger US coop amid challenges

Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, John Bass, also held delegation-level talks with Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday emphasised the importance of positive and productive engagement between Pakistan and the US, highlighting the ongoing macroeconomic and regional security challenges, particularly the infiltration of insurgency through the porous Afghan border. Dar, who is also the country's foreign

minister, said this during an interaction with the US Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs John Bass, at the Foreign Office in Islamabad. The meeting was also attended by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst. Both officials discussed approaches to expanding bilateral cooperation on economic and security issues, including countering terrorism and violent extremism, and the importance of fostering regional stability

and prosperity, according to a US Mission handout. Earlier this month, the US strongly condemned the August 26 terrorist attacks in Balochistan, which resulted in the deaths of over 50 people, including 14 security personnel. The US State Department's spokesperson Matthew Miller, at a news briefing, said that "Washington strongly condemned the deadly attacks that targeted security officials and civilians, including the murder of 23 innocent civilians

in Musakhail". The assaults were the most widespread in years by ethnic militants fighting a decades-long insurgency to win secession of the resource-rich province, home to major China-led projects such as a port and a gold and copper mine. Acting Under Secretary Bass expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's continued cooperation in assisting Afghans in resettlement pathways to the US. The Under Secretary congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister on Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-2026 term and expressed the US's interest in working closely with the Government of Pakistan during its tenure. Bass, also called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir. The meeting focused on matters of military cooperation, geopolitical issues, and security situation along the Pak-Afghan border. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks since the Taliban government returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021, mostly in the border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but also in Balochistan, which abuts Afghanistan and Iran. At least 170 militant attacks were killing 151 civilians and 114 security personnel in Balochistan last year, according to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies. Against this backdrop, the federal cabinet in June this year approved Operation Azme-Istehkam, a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism campaign following the Central Apex Committee's recommendations under the National Action Plan to root out terrorism.

President urges nation to follow teachings of Prophet (PBUH)

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has called upon the nation and the Muslim Ummah to abide by the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as a guiding light to overcome the prevailing challenges. The president, in his message on 12th RabiulAwwal, 1446, greeted the nation on the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and said that Allah Almighty had set the Holy Prophet's life as a role model to guide every aspect of life. The president highlighted that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) established a just society where every individual, regardless of their wealth or social status, could live with dignity. He also emphasised the Holy Prophet's teachings encouraged his followers to speak out against oppression and support the marginalized as an integral part of their faith. "Today, as the world faces division and oppression, it's imperative to spread the message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who embodied love, tolerance, and human rights. He treated all individuals, regardless of their faith, with respect and dignity.

First Palestinian envoy to Spain submits credentials

MADRID: The first Palestinian ambassador to Spain presented his credentials on Monday to Spanish King Felipe VI after Madrid in May formally recognized a Palestinian state. The head of state welcomed Husni Abdel Wahed to the royal palace in Madrid for the traditional ceremony for newly appointed foreign ambassadors to Spain, according to images published by the royal palace on social network X. Wahed had been the head of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Madrid since 2022 and he enjoyed a similar status to that of an ambassador but he officially changed rank after Spain along with Ireland and Norway formally recognized a Palestinian state comprising the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. - Agencies

ATC orders to release all PTI lawmakers

"Has anything been recovered from Sher Afzal Marwat, Ahmed Chattha and other MNAs?" judge questions prosecutor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Islamabad Monday ordered the immediate release of all the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) members of the National Assembly brought from outside the Parliament House for allegedly violating the newly enacted public gathering law during the party's power show in the federal capital on September 8. Marwat had resisted the arrest and asked the police to show arrest warrant. While Gohar was later released, Marwat was kept in custody for violating regulations devised under a new law - Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024, and also accused of clashing with police personnel on the rally day. At least 10 PTI lawmakers, who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House, were brought to the lower house on September 12 after their production orders were issued by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. The PTI had staged its much-hyped power show in Islamabad with party workers and police clashing on Chungi No 26, on the outskirts of the capital on September 8. Heavy contingents of police were deployed outside the parliament while all entry and exit routes to the Red Zone were also closed from D-Chowk, Nadra Chowk, Serena, and Marriott, except for Margalla Road. Multiple PTI lawmakers, including Qureshi, Akram, Naseem-ur-Rehman and Zubair Khan had been arrested from the Parliament House.

ed PTI lawmakers in the wake of the party's political gathering in the federal capital. The leaders included Marwat, Sheikh Waqas Akram, Zain Qureshi, Chattha, Malik Aamir Dogar, Yousef Khan, Naeem Ali Shah. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and lawmaker Marwat were also arrested from outside the Parliament House for allegedly violating the newly enacted public gathering law during the party's power show in the federal capital on September 8. Marwat had resisted the arrest and asked the police to show arrest warrant. While Gohar was later released, Marwat was kept in custody for violating regulations devised under a new law - Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024, and also accused of clashing with police personnel on the rally day. At least 10 PTI lawmakers, who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House, were brought to the lower house on September 12 after their production orders were issued by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. The PTI had staged its much-hyped power show in Islamabad with party workers and police clashing on Chungi No 26, on the outskirts of the capital on September 8. Heavy contingents of police were deployed outside the parliament while all entry and exit routes to the Red Zone were also closed from D-Chowk, Nadra Chowk, Serena, and Marriott, except for Margalla Road. Multiple PTI lawmakers, including Qureshi, Akram, Naseem-ur-Rehman and Zubair Khan had been arrested from the Parliament House.

Constitutional tweak postponed 'indefinitely', says Irfan Siddiqui

"Fazl agrees on certain amendments but needs time to review details of some provisions"

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: As the ruling alliance is still busy with making all-out efforts to forge consensus on the much-disputed constitutional amendments, Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui has claimed that the government's bid to table the constitutional package has been "postponed indefinitely". Speaking to media on Monday, the PML-N parliamentarian revealed that the JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's "arguments were well-justified" and didn't oppose the amendments on principle grounds. However, Siddiqui said Fazl needed more time to review the amendment draft. "Fazl agrees on certain amendments but needs time to study details of some provisions," he added. The development comes after the government apparently failed to woo the JUI-F chief to lend his support for the prospective constitutional tweaks after several meetings with him wherein the politico opposed the proposal to extend judges' tenure or increase their retirement age. Several political leaders, including federal ministers and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, as well as a delegation of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) held meetings with Maulana Fazl on Sunday. The political saga continued late at night with former prime minister and Convener of the recently established Awaam Pakistan party Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and party's secretary Miftah Ismail also visiting Fazl's residence.

ADB reaffirms support for Pakistan's reform agenda



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank has reaffirmed continued support to Pakistan for complementing its development and reform agenda. The commitment was expressed by ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa during his meeting with Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema in Islamabad today. The President ADB lauded the government for undertaking comprehensive reforms leading to progressive signs of economic recovery. While appreciating ADB's long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan, Ahad Cheema briefed the President on a series of reforms introduced

by the government. The key reforms include enhancing tax revenues, improving financial sustainability of energy sector, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection. The President of ADB reposed his trust in Pakistan's reform agenda and appreciated the required tough stabilization measures taken by the Government to bring about macroeconomic stability in the country. The President of ADB assured Pakistan of its continued support in the areas of Public Private Partnership, climate and disaster resilience enhancement, Domestic Resource Mobilization, promoting Women Inclusive Finance and Energy Sector reforms. The President also attended the ground-breaking ceremony of a new ADB office building in Islamabad.



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