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Diplomatic path exists' in Lebanon: President Macron

Detailed News On Page-08

CJP Isa says abusing him is the easiest job

Detailed News On Page-08



Head's century powers Australia to victory

Detailed News On Page-06



Approves transformation plan

PM orders third party audit of all FBR projects

Premier praised FBR Transformation Plan; encouraged officials to engage with taxpayers for feedback, recommendation

ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has instructed that a third-party audit be conducted on all projects under the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to enhance transparency and improve operational efficiency. This directive was issued during a meeting chaired by the prime minister to review FBR's operations on Friday. The premier emphasised that the FBR is the backbone of the country's economy, and its digitisation is a crucial milestone in the government's economic reforms. By improving revenue collection, Pakistan will be able to provide better services to its citizens and improve the social sector. Additionally, the prime minister stressed the need to further strengthen FBR's enforcement system, calling it a critical step for the country's financial stability. During the meeting, PM Shehbaz praised the FBR Transformation Plan, encouraging officials to engage with taxpayers for feedback and recommendations. He reiterated the government's commitment to promoting the private sector, describing a strong and thriving private sector as vital for Pakistan's economic future. The prime minister also urged swift action to combat smuggling, highlighting its detrimental impact on the economy. The meeting included a detailed briefing on the FBR Transformation Plan, with participation from key federal ministers including Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Iqbal Cheema, and Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, alongside other senior officials. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)

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Fin Min optimistic about securing IMF programme

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb shared an update on the current economic situation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb hoped that the nation would hear good news from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after its Executive Board meeting on 25th September. The finance minister passed these said this while chairing a meeting of the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here in Islamabad. At the outset, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb shared an update on the current economic situation and macroeconomic stability achieved across all sectors of the economy. He said the currency is now in a stable position with foreign exchanges at a 26-month high at the back of "very resilient and strong remittances flows".

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NATIONAL DAY OF NEPAL



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari, and others cutting the cake to celebrate the Constitution Day and the National Day of Nepal. - DNA

Malaysian PM to visit Pakistan on October 3

It is after five years that any Prime Minister of Malaysia is visiting Pakistan



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will visit Pakistan on October 3. According to diplomatic sources, a high-level delegation along with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will also arrive in Pakistan. It is after five years that any Prime Minister of Malaysia is

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Fazl says govt not to complete its tenure

Calls for institutional reforms

DNA

MULTAN: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has announced that the party has decided to focus on institutional reforms rather than targeting individuals. Speaking to the media in Multan on Friday, he stressed that constitutional amendments should be given importance. He said this government may not complete its tenure as it has failed to address

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As SC practice law amended

Justice Munib excluded from judges' committee

CJP Qazi Faez Isa appoints Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to judges' committee

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: After President Asif Ali Zardari approved the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa exercised his powers under amended law and appointed Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to the judges' committee, replacing Justice Munib Akhtar. The changes have been made to the three-member judges committee of the apex court which decides on the formation of the SC benches and cases related to human rights. The newly amended law grants additional powers to the chief justice to nominate a judge as a member of a committee, if a member of

Continued on Page 06

Ordinance to further improve transparency in judicial proceedings

FAISLA SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the promulgation of Ordinance on Practice and Procedures Act will further improve transparency in the judicial process. Talking to the media here, he said an ordinance for amendment in the Practice and Procedures Act has been promulgated

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Briefs

KP Speaker writes to CEC

Swati emphasised that the delay in the allocation is a violation of justice

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly Speaker Babar Sattar Swati has pushed the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to allocate immediately the reserved seats to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) following the Supreme Court orders. KP Speaker Swati wrote a comprehensive two-page letter to the CEC on Friday, urging the immediate allocation of reserved seats in the assembly. Citing his responsibility as the custodian of the KP Assembly, Swati emphasised that the delay in the allocation is a violation of justice, particularly after the Supreme Court ruling on the matter.

Judicial reforms must be fair: Bilawal

Says PPP was informed late about Article 8 amendment

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has voiced his concerns over the recent amendment of Article 8, stating that he was informed of the changes too late in the process. In an interview, he expressed disappointment with the government's handling of the amendment, describing it as a rushed decision without adequate consultation.

PTI gets permission for rally

Khan accuses govt of destroying democracy

PTI criticises the government's refusal to allow rallies, claiming democracy is being undermined by restrictions

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan has said if the government refused permission, the party's rally in Lahore then "we will turn the rally into a protest." Imran, during an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala jail earlier today said, "If the rally is stopped, the entire nation will protest at Minar Pakistan". "For a year and a half, rallies have not been allowed in Lahore. Destroying democracy means ending freedom, and having a rally is our constitutional right," the PTI chairperson noted. The PTI founder alleged the PTI's rally at Minar-e-Pakistan is "aimed at protecting democracy and freedom", and is endorsed by the Supreme Court, but is being blocked once again. "Despite the guarantee, containers were placed and obstacles set up at the Islamabad rally". "Has anyone in the world ever given

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NA secretariat issues revised party position

List doesn't include 15 reserved seats given to PML-N, five to PPP and three allotted to JUI-F

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly secretariat has issued its revised party position list in the lower house of parliament reflecting each political party's standings excluding the disputed reserved seats. The list - issued by

Continued on Page 06

6 soldiers martyred, 12 terrorists killed in Waziristan operation

ISPR says Pakistani troops fought bravely to foil terrorist attempts

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as six soldiers were martyred and 12 terrorists killed in two separate operations by security forces in North and South Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. "On 19/20 September 2024, two fierce encounters took place between own troops and the terrorists in North and South Waziristan districts, resulting in the killing of 12 Khwarij [terrorists],"



a statement issued by the military's media wing stated. As per the statement, the security forces detected the movement of a group of seven terrorists, who were trying to sneak into Pakistan via the Afghanistan border in the Spinwam area of District North Waziristan. However, the security personnel successfully thwarted the infiltration bid by surrounding and eliminating all seven militants in an intense exchange of fire. A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered, the ISPR stated. Meanwhile, in a second incident that took place in the general area of Latha, South Waziristan, when a group of "Khwarij" attacked a security forces' post. "Own troops fought bravely, foiling the attempts of intrusion and killed five Khwarij. However, during an intense exchange of fire, six brave sons of the soil, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat," the military's media wing stated. It further stated that the sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists present in the area. The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the ISPR added. In a move to shift its war on terror from a physical to an ideological front, the government on Wednesday categorised the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

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Most People Won't Get it



#StopFakeNews #PromoteAuthenticity

Holiday Notice

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

SB reviews power theft overbilling, data discrepancies

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Power Division on Friday reviewed overbilling, power theft and data discrepancies in power sector. The Committee which met with Mohsin Aziz in the Chair discussed a point of public importance raised by Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan regarding the overbilling of electricity bills and the indifference of officers/officials to the plight of consumers. Senator Palwasha expressed concern over incorrect meter readings, stating that her family had to visit the office 28 times in three months, where they were met with misbehavior. Senator Palwasha condemned this conduct, labeling it as part of a mafia, and called for strict action. She suggested referring the matter to the FIA to dismantle this group and set an example. She emphasized that if such treatment could happen to her family, the hardships faced by the common public would be unimaginable. The Committee Chairman, acknowledging her concerns, agreed that the issue is of public importance and noted that the scale of suffering is likely far greater. A senior official from the Power Division informed the Committee that actions had already been taken. The individual responsible has been transferred, and the faulty meter reading has been canceled. Action has been taken against miscreants, he added. Minister of Power Division Sardar Awais Leghari said that what the Sen-

ator mentioned falls under customer care, which is not directly part of electricity distribution. He also noted that there is a complaint system, 118, and all calls made to this number are forwarded to the distribution companies. They are working on implementing a computerized system at the subdivision level and revamping it to ensure complaints are resolved with equal importance. He emphasized that simply transferring people is not the solution; they are striving to make real changes. While emphasizing the need to address electricity theft and overbilling, Senator Mohsin Aziz, also directed the Power Division to provide clarity in their reports, noting inconsistencies in their responses regarding the number of Bagasse-based IPPs operating in the country and their tariff determination. He said that the Ministry cross-check Bagasse pricing and explain why this issue arose in 2013 and 2015. He further added that linking the price to the dollar and imported coal has created a depreciation advantage for local operators. He recommended that the Ministry review the Bagasse pricing and submit a report accordingly. Subsequently, a detailed report on load-shedding and feeder-wise electricity distribution was presented by PESCO and SEPCO. Mohsin Aziz pointed out the insertion of two feeders in one area, which has caused significant data discrepancies and requires cross-verification. He also highlighted discrepancies in feeder rates in the data provided by SEPCO, noting that line losses from one area seem to have

been attributed to another. In his closing remarks, Senator Mohsin Aziz recommended organizing the feeder-wise details more systematically by dividing the data into six-month periods and categorizing load-shedding under categories 2, 5, and 6 to provide a clearer picture. He also criticized the inappropriate behavior of PESCO and SEPCO towards the public, calling for an explanation for the widespread electricity theft. Based on the report, the committee will further investigate corruption within the responsible departments. The meeting was attended by Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, Senator Kazim Ali Shah, Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro, Senator Hidayatullah Khan, the Minister for Energy (Power Division), The Secretary of Power Division, Special Secretary (Power Division), and senior officials of all concerned departments. Commerce Minister, VC PIFD discuss fashion and design innovation ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) Prof. Hina Tayyaba on Friday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss the introduction of a "Design Centre Concept" aimed at boosting Pakistan's fashion and design industry. The meeting focused on how this concept could foster opportunities in education, research, and development within the fashion industry, with the ultimate goal of promoting exports and tapping into international markets, said a news release.



ISLAMABAD: Thai artists performing Thai traditional dance during a ceremony titled "Sawasdee Pakistan" organized by Thai Embassy at a local Mall, in the Federal Capital. – Online

45 cases of dengue virus reported in Punjab

LAHORE: The Punjab Health Department confirmed on Friday that 45 new cases of dengue have been recorded across the province in the last 24 hours while among them 39 cases are reported in Rawalpindi only. According to a spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department reassured the public that the department has made all necessary arrangements for dengue prevention, with government hospitals well-stocked with necessary medicines, including treatments for dengue. In response to the rising number of cases, the Health Department has issued an advisory urging the public to maintain clean and dry surroundings to help prevent the spread of the virus. They emphasized the importance of citizen cooperation with health teams actively working to control. Additionally, the department has provided a free helpline (1033) for those seeking treatment, information or wishing to register complaints related to dengue. –APP

NA body directs steps for revival PTV's past glory & grandeur

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Friday directed for taking extensive steps to revive the past glory and grandeur of Pakistan Television (PTV). The committee, which was presided over by Wajid Püllan Baloch, suggested for optimum utilization of the PTV's present infrastructure and human resource for making it a profitable entity. It was of the view that the revival of PTV's glory was need of the hour without losing its status of a family channel and conforming it with the present trends. The committee said that the PTV had an immense human resource potential and state of the art infrastructure which could be utilized to regain its former status. The panel

also suggested for a dedicated educational channel as the experiment of imparting education through the PTV during COVID-19 pandemic had proved to be successful. The committee directed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and the Press Information Department (PID) to aggressively pursue the issue of payment of salaries/outstanding dues to the media workers. Apprising about the compliance of the previous recommendations of the committee regarding appointment of regular heads of the PTV and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, the Secretary Information said that the process would be accomplished after the reconstitution of boards of the two organizations, which were expected to be notified within days. The people from a cross-section of the society had been shortlisted for

inclusion in the two boards, she added. The PTV's Acting Managing Director gave an exhaustive presentation on the existing human resource (HR), financial health, marketing strategy and the production activities of the organization. He informed the committee that considering the need for revamping and modernization of the state-owned telecaster, the present government initiated a series of measures that included induction of anchors from private sector, investing in modern production equipment, developing digital infrastructure, besides content modernization. A financial strategy had been devised that included revamping the existing one to attract advertisements on competitive rates, exploring partnerships for production, implementing budget control measures and reduction in operation cost, he added.

Chief Secretary calls for enhance public service

HYDERABAD: The Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh Syed Asif Haider Shah held a meeting with all Deputy Commissioners, ADCs and Assistant Commissioners of Hyderabad Division at the Commissioner House Hyderabad on Thursday night. Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon and former Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch were also present at the meeting. According to a handout, on this occasion, Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah distributed appreciation certificates among officers who demonstrated best performance during the monsoon rains. Speaking to the officers, the Chief Secretary said that there are many expectations from us, but the problems also exist and the resources are less. CS added that the nature of our job is such that we have many tasks and responsibilities and there is no vacation. The government looks up to you. He said, I had worked with the federal cabinet for two years and at the highest level, including the Prime Minister's level, if there was a complex issue, I was told to ask the DC to handle it, which means that DC is still trusted. He added that our frontline workers are the Assistant Commissioners, and I request and direct you to not disappoint us. As the Chief Secretary I start work at 7 am and continue it till night, working all seven days a week. He said you are young and at the beginning of your career, so, I hope that the first place for solving people's grievances should be the Assistant Commissioner's office. –APP

PSQCA & LCCI to enhance local industry competitiveness

LAHORE: The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) have partnered to strengthen the local industry's ability to compete on a global scale. As part of this initiative, PSQCA has established an information desk at the LCCI and Quality Assurance Cell at its directorate. This aligns with the government's "Ease of Doing Business" policy and aims to improve the quality of local products to meet international standards. To kick off this collaboration, PSQCA and LCCI jointly organized an awareness session titled "Role of PSQCA in

Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Regulatory Affairs" at the LCCI Auditorium. Engr. Muhammad Rizwan, Director of the Standards Development Centre at PSQCA, along with Deputy Director Asghar Ali and Assistant Directors Nauman Khalid, Syed Taimoor, and Muhammad Awais Arshad, provided insights into the department's significance in standardization and regulatory affairs. Engr. Rizwan commended LCCI for its support and urged industry members to prioritize compliance, stating that PSQCA's doors are always open to industrialists. He noted that the session

aimed to bridge the gap between the government and the business community through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between PSQCA and LCCI. "Our shared goal is to contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan by empowering our businesses to compete globally," he emphasized. "As we advance this partnership, we will focus on continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring that LCCI members have the necessary tools and support to excel. Together, we will build a future where Pakistani products are synonymous with quality, reliability, and excellence. –APP

BISP, State Bank agree to further improve payment system



STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Pro-

gramme, Senator Rubina Khalid, called on the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jameel Ahmed,

today. The meeting aimed to discuss the establishment of a new, improved, and transparent system for

disbursement of stipends to deserving women under the Benazir Income Support Programme. Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme, Amer Ali Ahmad, was also present during the meeting. During the discussion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the vision of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan for a transparent and dignified payment process for the poor women benefiting from the Benazir Income Support Programme. Governor State Bank, Mr. Jameel Ahmed, assured that a simplified procedure for the payment of stipends to deserving women will be developed in mutual consultation between the Benazir Income Support Programme and the State Bank of Pakistan.

Short term inflation eases by 0.52%

D NA

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), decreased by 0.52 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on September 19, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 317.61 points as compared to 319.28 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 12.72 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732

witnessed decrease of 0.42 per cent and went down to 310.84 points from last week's 312.14 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, decreased by 0.45 percent, 0.44 percent, 0.48 percent and 0.58 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 17 (33.34%) items increased, 15 (29.41%) items decreased and 19 (37.25%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included diesel (5.00%), onions (4.45%), petrol (3.88%), tomatoes (1.93%), sugar (0.70%), potatoes & LPG (0.57%) each, cooking oil 5 litre (0.45%), pulse moong (0.44%), pulse masoor (0.30%), cigarettes (0.25%) and pulse mash (0.24%). The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on

week-on-week basis included chicken (1.49%), pulse gram (0.83%), cooked daal (0.81%), shirting (0.74%), cooked beef (0.72%), eggs (0.69%), garlic (0.65%), gur (0.59%), georgette (0.50%) and salt powder. On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (38.14%), petrol (24.73%), diesel (24.06%), chillies powder (20.00%), electricity charges for q1 (13.47%), sugar (11.42%), cooking oil 5 litre (11.13%), rice basmati broken (9.96%), pulse masoor (8.63%), gur (7.68%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (6.43%) and LPG (2.47%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on year-on-year basis included gas charges for q1 (570.00%), onions (74.62%), pulse gram (57.34%), powdered milk (25.45%), beef (25.31%), shirting (20.17%), tomatoes (17.98%), pulse moong (16.41%), cooked daal (15.65%), salt powder (15.38%), georgette (13.78%) and energy saver (12.87%).

China shifts from solar manufacturing giant to solar IP innovator

ISLAMABAD: China is transitioning from a solar manufacturing powerhouse to a leading innovator in intellectual property (IP) as in 2022, China has accounted for over 80 per cent of capacity and production in all stages of the solar PV supply chain including polysilicon, wafers, cells, and modules. Executive Deputy Director of China's Photovoltaics Industry IP Operation Centre, Chen Wei informed the participants at the China IP annual meeting, citing the Photovoltaics IP Development Report for 2023 in Beijing, China Economic Net reported on Friday. Beyond PV manufacturing, Chen also noted a significant increase in research and development (R&D) investment among Chinese firms. "Several Chinese PV giants have been allocating about 5 per cent of their business revenue to R&D in PV technology over the past years," he said adding, "This is a significant investment given the specialised nature of PV technology." The manufacturing prowess and R&D investments have encouraged more Chinese enterprises and research institutes to innovate in the industry. In solar cell efficiency research, more and more Chinese solar enterprises and research institutes have become contributors to the best research-cell efficiency chart. The chart, updated by the Colorado-based National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a national laboratory under the US Department of Energy, documents the highest confirmed conversion efficiencies for research cells for a range of solar technologies. "Solar cell efficiency is a critical metric in the industry," Chen explained adding, "It measures how effectively a solar cell converts sunlight into electricity. Higher efficiency means more power from the same surface area." The R&D push has driven a surge in intellectual property initiatives. –APP

KP CM to inaugurate uplift projects next month

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, will inaugurate several projects next month under the Peshawar Uplift Program phase second. After the timely provision of funds by the provincial government, the ongoing projects under the Peshawar uplift program have gained further momentum. The ongoing projects include the construction of the six kilometer-long Hayatabad Jogging and Cycling Track in the provincial capital, the renovation and construction of Peshawar Zoo Road (Palosi

Road), the Iqra Chowk Island on University Road, the Park Avenue Island on University Road, and the construction of the Walkway Town Market. Additionally, several projects have been completed at the historic University of Peshawar, including the renovation of the university, repair and construction of the main roads, flooring of key areas, construction of public washrooms, and modern parking facilities. Alongside, several development projects at the adjacent Jinnah College for Women have been completed, including

flooring, repairs, and other improvement works. Furthermore, the renovation and restoration of the historic Government Hussain Sharif Higher Secondary School No. 1 in Peshawar City, as well as the repair, renovation, and restoration of the Agricultural Training Institute, have already been completed. These completed projects will not only enhance the beauty of Peshawar but will also restore its historical significance and provide a healthier environment for the public. –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

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

UK expertise to support 7 Pak climate change projects

Jane Marriott CMG OBE, says "The extraordinary range of these projects shows Pakistani climate leadership at its best. It is also an example of the UK working in partnership with Pakistan to find home-grown solutions to tackle big issues"

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Projects building floating solar farms, using AI to reduce emissions, converting agricultural waste into clean energy sources, and building zero-emission electric motorbikes will receive UK specialist support. Pakistan is not only one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, but also one of the most poorly prepared. While Pakistan cannot easily change its exposure to climate hazards, climate preparedness is something the UK and Pakistan partner closely on. Funded by the UK Government, the CFA provides one-on-one specialist support including on financial, gender equality and social inclusion issues. The aim is to strengthen proposals, making them more attractive to investors to secure funding. High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said that, "The extraordinary range of these projects shows Pakistani climate leadership at its best. It is also an example of the UK working in partnership with Pakistan to find home-grown solu-



tions to tackle big issues. I look forward to seeing how these proposals progress on the international stage and wish them the very best." CFA, which has already supported 15 low-carbon projects in two successful cycles, will now help these projects to improve and attract investment from Pakistan and international financiers. The third cohort includes: First is Go Energy (Sector: Power) building a 500MW floating solar project in Keenjhar Lake. It will generate clean energy, create thousands of jobs, and boost regional economic growth while reducing fossil fuel dependence and improving air quality in Pakistan. Second is Ahya (Sector: Technology) offering an AI-powered platform for emission measurement and reduction, with a digital carbon marketplace, aiming to significantly reduce CO2 emissions. Third is Quintech Sciences (Sector: Healthcare) aims to introduce Quintech's bio-detergents to European consumers, focusing on eco-conscious, health-conscious, and general consumer segments. Fourth is National Rural Support Programme (Sec-

tor: Agriculture) the Biochar Project will convert agricultural waste into biochar, enhancing soil health and boosting crop yields. This initiative reduces reliance on synthetic fertilizers, promotes environmental sustainability by sequestering carbon and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. Fifth is Vlektra (Sector: e-Mobility) with vehicles designed for the country's tough road conditions Vlektra aims to revolutionize environmentally friendly mobility by enhancing production capacity of their zero-emission electric motorcycles. Sixth is Pakistan Environment Trust (Sector: Energy) is pioneering Pakistan's first at-scale, sustainable biomass supply chain, transforming agricultural waste into a clean energy source for industries. Seventh is Five Star Foods (Sector: Food & Beverages) establishing a state-of-the-art facility to produce Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (R-PET) resin. The initiative reduces the need for virgin plastic, conserves natural resources, and lowers the carbon footprint of plastic production.

Pakistan's future growth hinges on a clear national direction

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's future growth is dependent on establishing a clear national direction that integrates positive nation-building efforts into every policy decision. This direction is crucial for resolving the country's governance crisis, fostering ideological unity, and leveraging the nation's untapped potential in emerging sectors like tourism and technology. Additionally, Pakistan needs to adopt a unified, whole-of-nation approach in policy decisions and reforms to overcome the complex challenges accumulated over the past seven decades. This was the central message delivered by senior former diplomats, Ambassador (r) Sardar Masood Khan, former president of AJK, and Ambassador (r) Masood Khalid during the annual meeting of National Advisory Council (NAC) of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The forum was moderated by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, and chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS. The yearly gathering aims to garner intellectual input from veteran practitioners for IPS' research activities and realistic ideas regarding national issues. Ambassador Masood Khalid highlighted Pakistan's policy-making crisis, stressing that "policies made in silos" lead to weak coordination and ineffective implementation. He highlighted the absence of strategic clarity and the internal tension between reformists seeking

change and those clinging to the status quo as major barriers to progress. According to him, this tug-of-war reflects a deeper crisis within Pakistan's policy-making framework. One such example is Pakistan's approach to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). While CPEC presents a unique window of opportunity, the lack of coherent, strategic policies jeopardizes its potential. He stressed that if not managed attentively

he noted, could help inform better policy decisions, ultimately leading to a more coordinated and effective governance system. In his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khan focused on the ideological foundations of Pakistan, stressing that nation-building must be prioritized to strengthen national unity and identity. "As an ideological state, Pakistan must assert its core principles with confidence,"

he stated, could help inform better policy decisions, ultimately leading to a more coordinated and effective governance system. In his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khan focused on the ideological foundations of Pakistan, stressing that nation-building must be prioritized to strengthen national unity and identity. "As an ideological state, Pakistan must assert its core principles with confidence,"



and diligently, CPEC could become a missed opportunity, reflecting broader policy dysfunction. To capitalize on such opportunities, Pakistan must create an enabling environment that fosters ease of business, particularly for Chinese investments. Ambassador Khalid urged civil society, especially the research community, to engage with political stakeholders more proactively. Such outreach,

he stated, could help inform better policy decisions, ultimately leading to a more coordinated and effective governance system. In his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khan focused on the ideological foundations of Pakistan, stressing that nation-building must be prioritized to strengthen national unity and identity. "As an ideological state, Pakistan must assert its core principles with confidence,"

he stated, could help inform better policy decisions, ultimately leading to a more coordinated and effective governance system. In his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khan focused on the ideological foundations of Pakistan, stressing that nation-building must be prioritized to strengthen national unity and identity. "As an ideological state, Pakistan must assert its core principles with confidence,"

China's people-centric governance model offers lessons for Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: China's People-centric Governance System and how developing countries could learn from its successful experience was the subject of a very well attended seminar held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The speakers included Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, SAPM and Chairperson of Pakistan-China Parliamentary Friendship Group as the Chief guest; Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Ambassador of China, Ambassador Moin ul Haque former, Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Professor Zhou-Rong Professor at the Renmin University, Dr Syed Kaleem Imam, Former IG; Dr. Sajid Amin, Deputy Executive Director SDPI and Shakeel Ahmed Ramay of AIERD who moderated the session. Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, underscored that China, had focused on people-centric governance by adoption and implementation of policies responsive to the needs of people, leading the country to lift around 800 million from the poverty. He underlined that the purpose of governance was to manage the country's economic and social resources effectively for the shared prosperity of all. China's success can be attributed to systematic meritocracy, political stability, and interstate economic cooperation. Ambassador Moin-ul-Haque highlighted

that the Western media portrayed Chinese democracy as an authoritarian state; however, on the contrary, China was the largest democracy in the world. He elucidated that China's governance system is based on the Confucius values of benevolence, wisdom, propriety and honesty in which the leader puts his people's interests and well-being before his interests. The Ambassador noted that teaching ordinary farmers modern farming techniques of branding, marketing, and selling their products nationwide are testaments to the Chinese people-centric governance system. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Zhou-Rong also elaborated the people-centric foundation of the Chinese government, underpinning its commitment to civil engagement and giving back power to the people. By maintaining close ties with Chinese citizens, the CPC aims to promote national development and continued advancement and social well-being. Dr Syed Kaleem Imam highlighted the pillars of a people-centric government are rooted in transparent, efficient, open, and standard operating policies. He explained Pakistan's progress in E-governance initiatives, such as NADRA, Citizen Portal which can help in improving governance. Dr. Sajid Amin mentioned that Pakistan could learn three lessons from China.

ANF seizes 168 kg drugs in 10 operations, arrests eight accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country during last 24 hours managed to recover 168 kg drugs worth Rs 25 million and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that a total of 700 grams hashish was recovered from two accused rounded up near a university in H-1 Islamabad. 200 grams hashish, 200 grams ice and 150 grams intoxicating tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused going a motorcycle near a university in Sialkot. 8.4 kg hashish was recovered from a rickshaw intercepted near an educational institution in Sialkot and two suspects including a woman were arrested. On pointation of the accused, another 10.8 kg opium and 54 kg hashish were recovered from a house located in Sheikhpura. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. In two separate operations at Peshawar Airport, 2.1 kg ice was recovered from two Bahrain and Doha bound passengers. 994 grams ice was recovered from the bag of a passenger going to Jeddah at Karachi Airport. In 9th operation, 4.7 kg hashish was recovered from a parcel sent from Peshawar at a courier office in Karachi. In 10th operation, 60 kg hashish was recovered near coastal line in Pishi, Balochistan. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process. —APP

PPP chief eulogizes Murtaza Bhutto on his martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid tribute to Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto on his 28th martyrdom anniversary while calling him a principled leader who never compromised on his values and political ideology. In his message, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari appreciated the courage and determination with which Mir Murtaza Bhutto lived his life, stating, "Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto's sacrifice for democracy and his steadfast stance against oppression remains an inspiration for Pakistanis today." He emphasized that Mir Murtaza Bhutto's martyrdom served as a reminder of the great sacrifices rendered by the Bhutto family for the masses. "The blood of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto, along with the sacrifices of our family, is forever etched in the history of the nation's democratic struggle," Bilawal Bhutto said.—APP

Memorial reference to pay tribute to late M.A. Raof

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A memorial reference was organized to pay tribute and offer prayers for the late M.A. Raof, former Controller of Examinations Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad and Patron of the University of Lahore, here on Friday. The event was attended by faculty, alumni, officers, and employees of Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU). Speakers included Awais Raof, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Lahore, Prof. Talat Khursheed, former Advisor of the Higher Education Commission, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees QAU, Muhammad Murtaza Noor, National Coordina-

tor of the Inter University Consortium and Executive Director of the Association of Private Sector Universities Pakistan (APSUP), and Sheikh Muhammad Ashraf. The Speakers highlighted the significant contributions of M.A. Raof to Pakistan's higher education sector, particularly his dedication to Quaid-i-Azam University, where he served from 1967 to 1998. His more than five decades of service to the academic community were acknowledged with deep respect and admiration. The speakers also shared their memories associated with late M.A. Raof. A special "Dua" was conducted by Qari Muhammad Yaseen in honour of the late M.A. Raof, concluding the event with prayers for his eternal peace.

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Briefs

Seven lawbreakers held with over 9 kg charras

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and arrested 7 accused besides recovering over 9 kg charras and other items from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Gujjar Khan, Saddar Wah, Gungmandi, R.A. Bazar and Wah Cantt police rounded up Pervaiz, Zaman, Shoab, Ehsan, Saeed Ullah, Waem Akram, and Asad and recovered over nine kg charras and other items from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added. —APP

Ayaz urges for global unity to maintain peace

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday said that global unity, tolerance, and dialogue are essential for establishing long-lasting peace. He also said that peace is essential for the progress and well-being of humanity and stressed the importance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means. In his message, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the role of diplomacy is pivotal for maintaining peace. He also added "Nations and leaders must prioritize dialogue and understanding over conflict. Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be sustained through mutual respect, cooperation, and a commitment to justice." He also urged the international community to uphold human rights and promote equality, as these principles are key to building a peaceful world. He said, "Peace is more than the absence of war. It is the presence of harmony, justice, and respect for diversity." "Only by embracing these values can we hope to create a world where future generations can thrive in peace and security," he added. Sardar Ayaz while underscoring Pakistan's steadfast commitment to advocating for the rights of oppressed people of Palestine & Kashmir stated that Pakistan is consistently calling for an end to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and is advocating for the Kashmiris who are facing decades of human rights violations & have been stripped off their unique & geographical identity. The Speaker while emphasizing the urgent need for global attention towards the injustice and struggles of the Palestinian and Kashmiri people stated that their quest for self-determination is a matter of basic human rights.

Alliance Francaise, Ukraine embassy present film '20 Days in Mariupol'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Alliance Francaise of Islamabad in association with the Embassy of Ukraine in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan present the film "20 Days in Mariupol" to the Pakistani public. Ali Bhatti, director of Alliance Francaise d'Islamabad (AFI), while welcoming the guests mentioned the objectives of AFI as promoting culture, both of Franco-phone countries and Pakistan. Thereby, helping to develop intercultural understanding and communication. AFI also provides a platform to artists, writers, filmmakers, culture activists and other intellectuals to engage into a dialogue. In this connection, it is collaborating with the Embassy of Ukraine in screening of "20 Days in Mariupol", winner of 2024 Oscar for the Best Documentary Feature. The screening was organised to underline the human cost and misery of war. More than 100 people attended the screening. Associated Press video journalist Mstyslav Chernov, along with his colleagues



Vasylyna Stepanenko and photographer Yevhen Maloletka, met the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in Mariupol. Journalists who

were caught in the city experienced the shock of the brutality with which the Russians destroyed not only houses, but also the lives of many Mariupol

residents. On the 21st day of the invasion, they managed to leave through the humanitarian corridor. The film "20 Days in Mariupol" was made in cooper-

ation with the Associated Press and American documentarians from Frontline. The material for the film was shot during the first days of the siege of Mari-

upol. About 10% of the videos and photos were sent from the only one point in the city where a mobile signal available. About 30 hours of video were taken out through the humanitarian corridor. The world premiere took place at the Sundance Film Festival, where the film won the audience prize. After that, there were screenings and winning of awards at 6 more festivals. Ukrainian journalists received the Pulitzer Prize for their work. The film "20 Days in Mariupol" received the prestigious Oscar award at the 96th ceremony in 2024. This is the first Oscar in the history of Ukrainian cinema. Screening was followed by an online presentation by and discussion with co-producer of the film Vasylyna Stepanenko, an Oscar and Pulitzer winner journalist. Ambassador of Ukraine to Pakistan Markiian Chuchuk in his speech underlined that "The tragedy of Mariupol is a pain that Ukrainians will carry throughout their entire lives. The ashes of Mariupol beat against our breasts".

Ahsan for unity among Muslim Ummah to tackle confronted challenges

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday stressed the urgent need for greater unity among the Ummah to effectively address the challenges faced, particularly the killings of innocent Muslims in Palestine, Gaza and other regions. "The unity of the Ummah is the need of the hour, as two billion Muslims in the world seem helpless in front of a country of 10 million that is shedding the blood of innocent people in Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon," he said. The minister was addressing the opening session of a three-day International Seerat Conference at the National Skills University.

He emphasized the significance of following the teachings of the Holy

Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) to succeed in this world and the Hereafter, urging a way out of the existing crisis of 'knowledge and practice.' Unfortunately, he said: "We (Muslims) are limited to only lip-service and are far behind in the practical world. Today's Muslims are suffering from a crisis of both knowledge and practice." Ahsan Iqbal noted that Muslims were once ahead in multiple fields in Spain but now lagged behind, with no Muslim scientist close to winning a Nobel Prize. He warned that some elements just wanted to fan hatred in society by misleading the public, especially the youth, in the name of religion and Namoo-e-Risalat (SAW) to achieve their nefarious designs. The minister

mentioned that he was the son of a mother who first got the Namoo-e-Risalat (SAW) law approved in Parliament but was targeted by such elements. He said Islam was a religion of peace, harmony and brotherhood that never allowed taking the lives of innocent people based on their faith, quoting examples from Islamic history. He asserted that no one had the right to doubt any Muslim's faith or belief, as this would be determined by Allah Almighty on the Day of Judgment. He stressed the importance of non-violent dialogue, particularly in the face of social media's challenges, adding that today's biggest challenge was social media, where truth could easily be turned into lies and lies into truth.—APP

Plan to introduce cutting-edge technology on motorways, GT roads

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark move, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has initiated a step to upgrade Pakistan's motorway and GT road monitoring systems where introducing cutting-edge technology to significantly enhance passenger safety and streamline traffic flow. Talking to a private news channel, minister in a bid to fortify Pakistan's motorways and GT roads has instructed the National High Authority to deploy state-of-the-art monitoring systems, adding, this strategic move will prioritize passenger safety, aiming to minimize risks and ensure seamless travel experiences. Federal Minister has announced that a remarkable 92% of motorway users have adopted the M-Tag system, a significant milestone in the country's efforts to modernize its transportation infrastructure. This achievement underscores the success of the government's initiative to pro-

vide cashless transactions and reduce congestion at toll plazas, he added. The M-Tag system, introduced by the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) will utilize radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to facilitate seamless travel on motorways, he mentioned. With the M-Tag sticker on their vehicles users can pass through toll booths without stopping, as the toll amount is automatically deducted from their prepaid account, he mentioned. Minister also revealed that a state-of-the-art tracking system is now operational on all major roads in the province, enhancing safety and efficiency. This advanced system enables real-time monitoring, swift incident response and data-driven decision-making to optimize traffic flow, he added. To further encourage adoption, he urged transporters to take advantage of the M-Tag facility without delay.—APP

Police issue challan slips to 5001 PSVs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have issued challan slips to 5001 public service vehicles (PSVs) and impounded 658 during 26 days, said a police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that Rawalpindi district police launched a campaign on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani against unfit PSVs. He said that during the campaign, police challaned 5001 and imposed fines amounting to over Rs 5.4 million on the rules violators. He said that Police were taking action in accordance with the law against unfit PSVs, checking route permits and licenses of the drivers. Legal action was taken against 434 drivers for driving vehicles without licenses, he added. The licenses of 27 drivers found guilty of negligence were cancelled, he said adding, 40 cases were also registered against drivers and the owners of public service vehicles.

Twin cities administrations unite to combat dengue surge

ISLAMABAD: The district administrations of Islamabad and Rawalpindi were taking coordinated prevention and enforcement actions to tackle the dengue outbreak. Amid the alarming rise in dengue cases in the twin cities, a joint meeting of officials from both administrations outlined the next steps in controlling the spread of dengue. The meeting co-chaired by the Commissioners of both cities while the Deputy Commissioners of Islamabad and Rawalpindi were also in attendance to discuss strategies aimed at curbing the dengue outbreak. The numbers are concerning; so far, 537 dengue cases have been reported in Rawalpindi and 389 in Islamabad. In Islamabad alone, 41 patients have been admitted to various hospitals. The data also revealed that most of the cases (74%) occurred among men, while 26% were women. The majority of the affected persons were from particularly between the ages of 20 and 39. In the last 24 hours, 48 new cases of dengue have emerged. Over the past week, 1,646 positive larvae cases were found across both cities. During the meeting, a briefing was given on the ongoing anti-dengue operations, especially at the borders between Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Joint efforts have identified several larvae breeding grounds, which the authorities were targeting for further action. The administrations stressed the need to use all available resources to prevent the growth of dengue larvae. Officials also highlighted the importance of launching a public awareness campaign to inform citizens about dengue prevention and the standard operating procedures (SOPs) they should follow. In the fight against dengue, the authorities are not only focusing on prevention but also enforcement. Three persons were arrested in the Industrial Area of Islamabad for failing to comply with anti-dengue SOPs. This action was taken under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner, particularly in sectors G8 and G9. In addition to the arrests in the Industrial Area, five more persons were detained in the Nellore area. These individuals were found to be involved in activities that contributed to the breeding of dengue larvae, further highlighting the need for vigilance.—APP

Rise in Rare Indus Dolphin number propitious, signifies thriving ecosystem

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Friday hailed the increase in the number of Rare Indus Dolphin as a propitious development signifying thriving ecosystem in the Indus Delta. The Senate Standing Committee Chair welcomed the increase in the number of Indus Dolphin (Bhulan), the world's rarest mammal in a press statement received here. Senator Sherry Rehman said the concerned government agencies and private organizations had an important role in the conservation and breeding of the Indus dolphin. "In 2001, the number of Indus dolphins was only 965, which has increased to 2,100 according to the 2021 survey. The increase in the number of Indus dolphins is a sign of the improvement of the Indus River's ecosystem. According to the 1879 survey, the number of Indus dolphins in the Indus River was 10,000," she said.—APP

Pakistani delegate visits Shaanxi Folk Song Museum



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Delegates from various prominent international media outlets, including one from Pakistan visited Northern Shaanxi Folk Song Museum, enjoying high three-string music instrument. At times passionate and at other times melodious, the performance captivated the delegates. "Pick up the three strings and set a tone, and all our guests will listen carefully..." A wave of storytelling em-

anated from the Northern Shaanxi Folk Song Museum. "In Pakistan, we have a three-stringed instrument known as the sitar. It is a long-necked lute commonly played in the northern regions. Often performed in tea rooms, it can accompany singing, sometimes alongside drums," said Naveed Hussain, from a Pakistani media outlet, in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Knowing that Sanxian, a three-string instrument, is one of the most popular

Chinese folk instruments with a history of approximately 2,000 years, Naveed stated that music can transcend borders. "It's a wonderful experience to learn about intangible cultural heritage in northwest China and to promote mutual understanding and respect among our diverse civilizations," Naveed remarked. While visiting the Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition Hall in Yuyang District, Yulin City, Shaanxi Province, the delegates

explored 15 different exhibition rooms, including stone carving, clay sculpture, paper cutting, and embroidery. The paper-cutting artist creates a rabbit figure for Naveed, who was born under the Chinese zodiac sign of the rabbit. Learning that Naveed is born under the Chinese zodiac sign of the rabbit, the paper-cutting artist crafted a rabbit figure for him on-site. Naveed carefully placed it in his pocket and mentioned that he would take it home to share this Chinese art with his family in Pakistan. This really shows that ancient China was a cradle of civilization," Naveed marveled at the first sight of the Shimao ruins, located in Shennu City, Yulin. These ruins are a Neolithic city built approximately 4,300 years ago. The delegation visited a stone city here with immense fortifications and sophisticated infrastructure. Over the past decade, excavators have uncovered thousands of artifacts and a 230-foot-high stepped pyramid. In Naveed's eyes, they represent a community and society with a pyramidal structure.

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Tariffs on Chinese EVs

USELESS efforts lead to melancholy" – Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset's words from decades ago aptly reflect the current Spanish government's abrupt attempt to take a more proactive role in shaping the European Union's China policy. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's recent visit to Beijing was filled with dulcet overtones. The intent was supposedly straightforward: secure a more robust economic partnership while assuaging Chinese concerns over Spain's stance on escalating European protectionism. Sanchez is walking a fine line. While advocating for more robust European anti-subsidy duties against Chinese goods, as a means of pushing Beijing towards building more factories in the EU, he had also affirmed openness to closer economic and cultural ties between China, the second-largest economy in the world, and Spain, the fourth-largest economy in Europe. Spain wants Chinese investment to support job creation, infrastructure development and growth in its globally integrated automotive sector. More recently, Sanchez has even called on the EU to rethink its tariff plan and instead adopt "a solution negotiated and agreed in the WTO framework" that "avoids commercial escalation that benefits no one". Ahead of an upcoming binding vote on European tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), his remarks indicate a new-found scepticism towards the escalating barriers to trade. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz also appears swayed by the economic argument against tariffs. Chinese EVs are far too significant to European consumers for the latter to bear the brunt of the raised costs. Chinese-made electric vehicles face additional EU import tariffs of up to 38%. Admittedly, the benefits of such tariffs for the European automotive industry and the prospects for more affordable EV pricing have often been omitted in Europe-wide renewable energy policies. With the sluggish consumption rate in the region, a de facto trade war against China is not a tenable economic path. Despite Sanchez's best efforts, however, Spain has – unsurprisingly – limited influence over how EU states will vote next month. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has been adamant in pressing for stiffer tariffs, accelerated de-risking and a general distancing of European economies from China. Any reversal now would jeopardise the commission's credibility and authority, given the high stakes involved. Reversing the tariffs requires a qualified majority – that is, 15 European countries comprising more than 65 per cent of the EU's population. An indicative vote taken in July saw 12 states in favour, 11 abstaining and four opposed to the decision. Building a coalition against these tariffs, even with Germany and Spain on board, would be a complex and cumbersome process. Sanchez's exuberance might seem like a win to China, but it is anything but as it is unlikely to alter the voting outcome. Certainly, it would only further estrange Madrid from the mainstream conversation on Beijing as central and western European states view with suspicion any perceived efforts to divide and conquer. A viable solution would be to pursue more joint ventures between Chinese and European firms rooted in sharing of technologies, talent and revenues, and that leave local manufacturers feeling included in China's economic vision in the region.



US democracy is weakening

FORMER US president Donald Trump was once again the target of an assassination attempt, marking the second such incident in two months. How many more bullets are aimed at American political figures? This event has thrust the issue of escalating political violence in the US into the spotlight. Politicians have resumed their customary performances in Washington: condemning violence and calling for unity. Yet, behind these lofty words lies a political system spiraling out of control, a beacon slowly dimming. American media and analysts have offered various explanations: increasing social inequality, political polarization, the spread of fake news, and rampant gun ownership. Some even provide historical context, suggesting that the political violence has always been part of American politics. The evolution of America's democratic system to its current state is linked to early defects in this machine. However, it has self-repair capabilities, and the current problem is that this ability is weakening. It can no longer keep pace with the global progress and development of democracy, nor can it adapt to the political and social developments within the US. The flaws of this dual-party rivalry are becoming increasingly apparent over time. The American electoral system is gradually becoming a money game. Whoever has the financial resources can manipulate election outcomes. Corporations and wealthy individuals easily influence policy directions through political donations. In this process, the voices of ordinary citizens are feeling completely marginalized. This money-driven politics exacerbates social inequality and erodes public confidence in the political system. The two-party system has evolved into a disingenuous performance. The Republicans and Democrats appear to be at odds, but in reality, they are engaged in a back-and-forth power play. Their conflicts are not about solving problems but about winning elections. In this process, the true spirit of democracy is cast aside, ultimately deepening societal division and polarization. Social media in the US has become a tool for spreading lies and hatred. In such an information environment, it is difficult for the public to make rational judgments, and extreme ideologies and conspiracy theories flourish. The American judicial system has also been politicized. Supreme Court justices are no longer neutral arbiters but have become representatives of party interests. The law is no longer a symbol of justice but a weapon in political struggles. Critically, this machine can no longer solve these problems and instead becomes a creator of issues. Even the shrewdest politicians cannot discern whether it is societal polarization that has caused party polarization or vice versa. This touches upon a more fundamental problem: it is the system itself that perpetuates political violence. In other words, the machine's operating system is flawed, not just a few parts or components. It either produces defective outcomes or damages itself in the process. Washington's politicians seem aware of the severity of the problem but are powerless. They continue to exploit the system for their political gain, attempting to divert attention by creating new adversaries.

"Trump's Achilles' Heel: Immigrant Voters"

Qamar Bashir



Texas has a large Latino and South Asian population. Latino voters, in particular, are a significant force in Texas, making up about 40% of the population. A 3-5% immigrant vote swing in Harris's favor could be enough to make Texas a competitive state. Florida has a large Latino (primarily Cuban-American and Puerto Rican) and immigrant population. Harris could see gains in South Florida if she can energize Latino voters with policies on immigration, economic opportunity, and healthcare. Potential Gain for Harris: 2-4% swing, particularly in Miami-Dade and Orlando regions, could bring Florida back into the Democratic column

DURING his last debate with Kamala Harris, Donald Trump made two fundamental mistakes. First, his tirade against the Russia-Ukraine war lacked depth and coherence. Second, his venomous rhetoric against immigrants failed to distinguish between legal and illegal immigration. His positions on both critical issues were shallow, unsupported by evidence, and lacked cogent arguments. His poor articulation of these topics further highlighted his ignorance, which may severely damage his chances of retaining the presidency of one of the world's most powerful nations, the United States of America. Moreover, Trump appeared unaware of the significant impact immigrant voters can have on the election. Immigrants can either swing the vote in his favor, shift it towards Kamala Harris, or choose not to vote at all. His alienation of this crucial demographic could prove to be a critical miscalculation in the upcoming election. Currently, I am staying in Macomb, Michigan, where the sentiment among immigrants, both new and longstanding, is largely negative towards Trump. This hostility has intensified, especially after hearing his inflammatory and offensive remarks, where he labeled all immigrants as "dog and cat eaters." These derogatory comments have deeply alienated the immigrant community here. The demographic of Michigan state is very interesting. Out of the total population of 10 million the black and immigrants make up 25% of the population. The immigrant population in the U.S., especially in key swing states like Michigan, is growing and becoming a more politically active and decisive voting bloc. Immigrant communities from South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and East Asia are playing an increasingly prominent role in elections. Trump's anti-immigrant policies, such as the Muslim travel ban, his derogatory rhetoric about Mexican immigrants, and his hardline stance on border security, have alienated many immigrant and minority groups. These voters view Trump as a threat to their communities, families, and values, which was reflected in increased minority voter turnout against him in 2020. This alienation is likely to persist, if not intensify, in the

upcoming election. Kamala Harris, as a woman of South Asian and Jamaican descent, holds particular significance for immigrant communities. Her nomination and vice presidency represent a historic milestone in the U.S. political landscape, and her background could galvanize South Asian, African-American, and Caribbean-American voters. Harris's candidacy could act as a rallying point for immigrant and minority voters, particularly those who see her as an advocate for civil rights, immigration reform, and inclusive policies. In Michigan, immigrant and minority voters are concentrated in urban areas like Detroit, Dearborn, and Ann Arbor. Arab-American voters, particularly from the Lebanese, Syrian, and Yemeni communities in Dearborn, have historically played a decisive role in local and national elections. Similarly, the South Asian population in suburban Detroit is growing and becoming more politically engaged. Given the state's narrow margins in recent elections, the mobilization of immigrant voters could be crucial. In 2020, Joe Biden won Michigan by around 154,000 votes. Immigrant and minority voters, particularly in urban centers, contributed significantly to this victory. If the Democratic Party can further energize these communities, particularly through the candidacy of Kamala Harris, it could more than compensate for any losses among the white working-class voters Trump retains. In Michigan in particular and across the USA in general, the white vote is no longer a monolithic bloc. Trump continues to enjoy strong support among white working-class voters, particularly those without a college degree, due to his populist message on trade and immigration. However, college-educated whites, particularly in suburban areas, are increasingly turning away from Trump's more extreme positions on race, immigration, and governance. Applying the theory of a divided white vote and a unified immigrant vote across the U.S. in 2024 gives much deeper insights into Harris's potential gains. Texas has a large Latino and South Asian population. Latino voters, in particular, are a significant force in Texas, making up about 40% of the population. A 3-5% immigrant vote swing in Harris's favor could be enough to make Texas a

competitive state. Florida has a large Latino (primarily Cuban-American and Puerto Rican) and immigrant population. Harris could see gains in South Florida if she can energize Latino voters with policies on immigration, economic opportunity, and healthcare. Potential Gain for Harris: 2-4% swing, particularly in Miami-Dade and Orlando regions, could bring Florida back into the Democratic column. Arizona has a sizable Latino population and saw Joe Biden win in 2020. Harris could potentially build on this success by increasing turnout among Latino and younger immigrant voters. A 2-3% increase in immigrant turnout could solidify Arizona as a Democratic win. Georgia has seen a growing Black and immigrant population, particularly Latinos and Asians in the Atlanta metro area. A 2-4% increase in turnout among Black, Latino, and Asian communities could help secure Georgia for Harris. Pennsylvania has a smaller immigrant population compared to some other states, but urban centers like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have significant Black and Latino communities. A 1-2% gain among immigrants and urban voters could solidify her hold on the state. Immigrant voters, especially from South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and East Asia, are becoming a politically decisive bloc in key swing states. Many immigrants view Harris, the daughter of South Asian and Jamaican immigrants, as a symbol of inclusivity and progress, and her candidacy could galvanize these voters, particularly in states like Michigan, Texas, Florida, and Georgia, where immigrant populations are significant. The potential for Harris to increase voter turnout among first-generation immigrants and young voters could be a game-changer in battleground states. Immigrant and minority communities in Michigan, for example, were instrumental in Joe Biden's 2020 victory, and similar turnout in 2024 could be decisive. Ultimately, if Harris can capitalize on a divided white electorate and the growing political power of immigrant voters, she stands to gain a 2-4% increase in key swing states. This shift could tip the balance in her favor, particularly in states like Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, where narrow margins have defined recent elections.

Pakistan's Integration into the China-Russia Axis

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The convergence of interests between Russia Pakistan, particularly regarding ISIS, the recognition of the Taliban as a legitimate actor, the stability of Afghanistan, is bringing the two states closer at a rapid pace. Additionally, the energy sector offers another area for deepening relations between the two countries. Pakistan Russia have already initiated cooperation with the construction of the North-South gas pipeline

THE involvement of the United States in Ukraine the South China Sea exemplifies its longstanding rivalry with China Russia. This rivalry has led to the formation of new alliances that could potentially support territorial disputes, with these groups pitted against one another while simultaneously coordinating economic security cooperation. Consequently, the Pakistan-China-Russia alignment is largely shaped by their shared interests. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plays a significant role in this alignment as it has the potential to bring Pakistan closer to Pan-Eurasian integration. As the flagship project of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC could link Pakistan with the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Iran, SAARC, China. Although CPEC does not directly run through Russia, there is a possibility of branch routes connecting through Xinjiang to the Central Asian Republics (CARs) potentially extending to Russia. The Altai Republic, which borders Xinjiang, could also be linked to CPEC through a northern branch route. This could give Russia access to energy-rich regions global markets, which it could leverage to develop its Siberian region. Russia's grand strategic vision of becoming a dominant force in the Eurasian supercontinent has inspired its leadership to revisit relations with Pakistan. This has led to a game-changing inclusive partnership with Pakistan to address common challenges, such as the threat posed by ISIS in Afghanistan, to collaborate on the CPEC initiative. The emerging defense relationship between Russia Pakistan serves as the backbone of their evolving rapprochement reflects new strategic thinking by both countries toward South Asia. Furthermore, defense exports from Russia could enhance Pakistan's capacity to counter terrorism lay the foundation for expanded military cooperation, potentially including the acquisition of jets, tanks, other munitions if conditions are favorable. In recent years, India has diversified its defense partnerships with countries like the United States, Japan, Israel, France, which have eroded Russia's dominance in India's defense market. As a result, Russia is seeking new arms markets in the region to expand its defense relationships. The joint military drill between Russia Pakistan, known as Druzhba, in 2016 marked a fast-track trajectory in developing these ties amid the changing geopolitics of South Asia. The most promising area of cooperation between Russia Pa-

kistan in the near future is Afghanistan. Moscow has hosted several peace conferences in recent years, Pakistan's participation in these talks demonstrates the growing alignment between Russia Pakistan regarding the future role of the Taliban as an anti-terrorist force. This shift in Russia's strategic calculus, away from its Cold War stance, is driven by concerns about ISIS infiltrating the CARs, which could destabilize the region. Instead of relying on military might, Russia has turned to diplomatic solutions, using regional actors like Pakistan to achieve results in the fight against terrorism. Given Pakistan's long border with Afghanistan its historical relations with both Kabul the Taliban, strategic coordination between Islamabad Moscow could open new avenues of cooperation in the future. The convergence of interests between Russia Pakistan, particularly regarding ISIS, the recognition of the Taliban as a legitimate actor, the stability of Afghanistan, is bringing the two states closer at a rapid pace. Additionally, the energy sector offers another area for deepening relations between the two countries. Pakistan Russia have already initiated cooperation with the construction of the North-South gas pipeline. Pakistan, which needs alternative energy resources to meet its growing demand, can benefit from Russia's expertise in this field. The evolving cooperation between Islamabad Moscow signals to the world that both states are working within a traditional framework of cooperation. Pakistan could potentially benefit from Siberian resources by utilizing the Xinjiang-CPEC route for energy imports. If the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline project faces political obstacles, the Altai-Xinjiang pipeline could be an ideal alternative for Pakistan. The strong leg of the China-Russia-Pakistan triangle is the China-Pakistan link. Pakistan China have been traditional allies, supporting each other historically in areas such as military equipment diplomacy. China has assisted Pakistan in building nuclear reactors, Pakistan, in collaboration with China, has developed the JF-17 fighter jet. Pakistan is one of the largest importers of Chinese defense equipment is set to acquire eight Chinese S20 or Yuan-class submarines. China has also invested in the Karakoram Corridor Gwadar Port. The growing strategic partnership between India the United States in areas of shared defense interests is a source of concern for Pakistan. The relationship between Pakistan the United States has been turbulent,

it reached a low point with the Trump administration's policy on Afghanistan. The alignment of interests between Russia, China, Pakistan largely stems from their shared opposition to the United States. For Russia China, the United States is seen as a hegemonic force that threatens their security. Pakistan, due to its longstanding conflict with India, is willing to be part of an Asian security architecture designed by China. Russia, meanwhile, sees an opportunity to establish a strategic relationship with Pakistan as India diversifies its list of military suppliers to include the United States Israel. Regarding technology energy supplies, Russia offers an alternative source for the region. Russia could gain access to new markets for its defense equipment may continue to supply arms to both India Pakistan. Russia's decision to arm Pakistan is significant because it indicates that Moscow is no longer giving preferential treatment to its old strategic partner, India. While India remains an important economic partner for Russia, the divergence of interests between Moscow New Delhi is becoming more apparent as Russia grows closer to China. China, with its strong economy substantial foreign reserves, is looking to invest secure energy supplies. Pakistan, with its large youthful population, needs energy resources defense equipment. The new alignment will give Pakistan access to Russian technology, which is often the source of many Chinese products. The mutual interests driving the Moscow-Islamabad partnership are contributing to a shift in international relations. In Europe, Russia is involved in a confrontation with the West over Ukraine is under Western sanctions due to its actions in Crimea. In the Asia-Pacific, tensions have escalated between China neighboring countries due to China's actions in the South China Sea. These developments have pushed China Russia to seek new allies, which explains the growing rapport between the two powers. However, the question remains whether this partnership can evolve into a formal alliance given the historical distrust between the countries. The old adage "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" seems to apply here, as the shared perception of the United States as a common adversary is the most important factor driving this alignment, superseding other considerations. China needs new allies to reshape the global order, this process begins in Asia.

Briefs

PM orders third party...

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has reported a significant 71% increase in the number of tax return filers for the fiscal year 2023 (FY23), with an additional 2.2 million people filing, bringing the total to 5.3 million. The deadline for filing income tax returns for FY24 has been set for September 30, 2024. Previously, FBR reported that in FY23, the FBR collected a total of Rs9.285 trillion (\$33.22 billion), slightly surpassing the revised target of Rs9.252 trillion. Income tax collection alone reached Rs4.512 trillion, exceeding its target by 21.25%. However, the sales tax collection fell short, bringing in Rs3.096 billion, missing the target by 14.16%. For the first two months of the current fiscal year, the FBR collected Rs1.456 trillion, falling short of its Rs1.554 trillion target by Rs98 billion.

Fin Min optimistic...

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He said the IT exports also stabilised at about 300 million monthly figure which is a great news for the export sector. The finance minister also lauded a steady growth in the RDAs with 165 million dollars inflows received last month. He called the reduction in inflation to a single digit as a big story, hoping that inflation would further come down when the September data is released. He noted that macroeconomic stability was not an end itself but a means to an end. He called it the basic hygiene and the building blocks that provide foundation to whole edifice.

6 soldiers martyred...

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as "Fitna al-Khawarij." The nation has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Last month, a series of deadly terror attacks hit Balochistan in a single day, which claimed the lives of 50 people, including 14 security personnel. In response to these attacks, security operations were intensified across the region. According to data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), the two most vulnerable provinces saw a sharp rise in deadly attacks last month.

Khan accuses...

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time to end a rally? We were deceived regarding the Islamabad rally," the PTI leader questioned. "If the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore does not permit the rally, we will protest at Minar Pakistan," he stated. The PTI founder alleged that even during Musharraf's martial law era, the media and political rallies were not banned from expression. "Musharraf's election was free and fair compared to theirs, and he also did not impose bans on the media and rallies". Speaking more on permission regarding rallies, he said, "Whatever their requests are, they are being heard, and ours are being rejected".

NA secretariat...

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the electoral body on September 18 i.e., prior to the Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding the Supreme Court's July 12 verdict — does not include the 15 reserved seats given to the Pakistan Muslim-League-Nawaz (PML-N), and the five and three seats given to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F). The development comes a day after NA Speaker Sadiq, in his letter to the ECP termed the top court's ruling "incapable of implementation" after the amendments to the Election Act 2017.

South Africa women beat Pakistan in series decider

The winning side chased down 154/2 to win series 2-1

SPORTS DESK

MULTAN: South Africa women's team won the series after defeating Pakistan by eight wickets in the third and final of the T20I on Friday at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The Proteas achieved a thumping win over the hosts, while chasing the target of 154 within 20 overs. Earlier, South Africa decided to bowl first. The Green Shirts ended the first innings after scoring 153/5 within 20 overs. Batting first, Pakistan's opening batters Muneeba Ali and Gull Feroza kicked off the match. With the wicket-keeper Muneeba scoring 33 runs off 26 balls with the help of four boundaries. Gull Feroza, on the other hand, made 18 off 18 after smashing three fours. The all-rounder Nida Dar came after Gull was caught by SunneLuus in the 6.3 overs. However, Nida was dismissed in the 12.2 overs with the score of 12 runs off seven balls by NonkululekoMlaba. Meanwhile,



with the spectators expecting Sidra Ameen to score a half-century, was bowled in the 18.2 overs by Chloe Tryon after scoring the most runs for the team; 37 off 40 deliveries. Moreover, captain of the team Fatima Sana's (27) wicket brought Aliya Riaz in the 17.4 overs. In regard to this, the captain was caught by Anneke Bosch while Tumi Sekhukhune was delivering the fifth bowl of the over.

However, the innings came to an end with Aliya Riaz scoring 8 off 8 while Tuba Hassan could only make six runs against five deliveries. The Proteas, on the contrary, bagged five wickets altogether, with Chloe Tryon, Tumi Sekhukhune, NonkululekoMlaba, and SunneLuus taking one wicket each. Chasing the target, South Africa's captain Laura Wolvaardt made 45 runs off 37 balls with two boundaries and two sixes. Additionally, TazminBritts was caught on the fifth ball by Sadia Iqbal. Proteas' Anneke Bosch was retired hurt after scoring 46 runs off 37 balls with six boundaries and one six. Meanwhile, the series between Pakistan and South Africa ended with AneerieDercken making 44 runs off 23 balls after smashing six fours and two sixes while SunneLuus made 14 off 13 balls. South Africa's SunneLuus was awarded the Player of the series while AneerieDercken was named Player of the match during the post-match presentation.

Babar's ton, Jahandad three-for help Stallions outclass Dolphins

Dolphins lose third consecutive match in tournament as they bundled out for 97 in chase of 272-run target

DNA

FAISALABAD: Babar Azam's much-needed century and bowlers help the Stallions secure mammoth 174-run victory against the Dolphins in the seventh match of the Champions One-Day Cup 2024 on Wednesday at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad. The Saud Shakeel-led team bundled out for 97 while chasing a 272-run target, with left-arm pacer Jahandad Khan and spinner Mehran Mumtaz taking

three wickets. Dolphins had a disastrous start to their innings as Muhammad Hurraina was dismissed by Jahandad on the second ball of the innings. The left-arm pacer later dismissed Umar Amin (10) and Saud (12), further turning the game in the Stallions' favour. Wickets kept falling on the Saud-led side as Sarfaraz Ahmed — who is also the mentor of Dolphins — and QasimAkram returned to the dugout after adding five and four runs to the scoreboard, respectively. Sahibzada Farhan — who opened

the innings — tried to fight back but failed and returned to the pavilion after scoring 32 off 36 with six fours, leaving the Dolphins 74/6 and in grave conditions. After Farhan's dismissal, the team had tail-enders on the ready, one of which was Asif Ali, known for his power hitting abilities, who managed to score a slow 21 off 28 balls and fell to spin sensation, Abrar Ahmed. No hopes remained for the Dolphins and they were bundled out a few overs later for 97 runs. This the Dolphins third consecutive loss

in the tournament as they have failed to secure a win in the Champions One-Day Cup, losing their first game to the Panthers and their second to the Markhors. Earlier, the Stallions had won the toss and elected to bat first and with the help of Babar, they had scored 271/7. The star batter remained steady throughout the innings as he scored 104 runs off 100 balls with his compatriots kept falling one by one. Despite not losing wickets early on in the innings, the Stallions played steadily throughout with Shan Masood (34 off 36) departing first for 76 runs in the 13th over. After Masood's dismissal, Babar walked onto the pitch and batted with Yasir Khan. The duo kept the innings going until the 16.1 over when Saud Shakeel got Yasir (46 off 58) out and he was replaced by Tayyab Tahir who also could not do much as he got out after scoring 33 off 49. The disappointment continued for the Mohammad Haris-led team as the skipper could score only six runs after facing 15 balls, leaving the Stallions toppling at 162/4 in the 33.5 over. Haris was replaced by Hussain Talat who is capable of scoring runs down the order, he added 23 runs while batting with Babar who had crossed the fifty-run mark at this point.



PSB takes notice of Athletics team visit to India without NOC

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has taken notice of the Pakistan Junior Athletics Team's participation in the South Asian Junior Athletics Championship in India without obtaining the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) and has sought an explanation from the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP). According to details, a team of twelve athletes and five officials from Pakistan participated in the international event, but failed to secure a single medal out of the 90 medals awarded during the championship. The AFP, already facing criticism for poor team selection leading to disappointing results, is now under further scrutiny as the PSB has questioned why the team was sent to India without prior approval from the relevant authorities. The PSB, in a letter addressed to AFP Secretary Shahjahan Mir, stated that the federation did not seek an NOC for the team's departure to India, which is a violation of Article 7(1) of the PSB Constitution. It is important to note that, for any sporting event held in India, the rules are particularly strict. Federations are required to obtain clearances not only from the PSB but also from intelligence agencies and various ministries before planning such tours.

ENG vs AUS: Head's century powers Australia to victory

'It was difficult at the start,' Head says in the post-match presentation

SYDNEY: Travis Head's century led the world champions Australia to a seven-wicket victory over England in the first One-Day International at Trent Bridge on Thursday. Australia achieved a thumping win over the hosts while chasing the target of 315 within 50 overs. The winning-side finished on 317/3 with six overs to spare. Meanwhile, Head scored 154 off 129 after smashing 20 shots towards the boundary and five sixes. "It was difficult at the start," Head said. "Jof's way too good for me, so I've experienced it a few times. I even thought in the T20s, the couple of overs I faced him in Southampton, he's an exceptionally good bowler. You've got to take the good with the bad... there wasn't

much in those first couple of overs, so I just tried to back my technique and tried to stay out there." Batting first England, made 315 all out within 49.4 overs. Ben Duckett aiming for a century on his home ground departed for 95 when caught and bowled by part-time leg-spinner Labuschagne, who also showed England's captain Harry Brook the way to pavilion after scoring 39 off 31 deliveries. Continuing with the first innings, Will Jacks made 62 off 56 with five fours and two sixes. Moreover, rest of the players were not even able to score a century for their team. The Baggies didn't fail to impress while bowling, with Ben Dwarshuis and Matthew Short bagging one wicket each, and Travis Head dismiss-

ing one player while Adam Zampa and MarnusLabuschagne took 3 wickets each. Alongside Head, MarnusLabuschagne made 77 off 61 balls with seven fours and two sixes. Steven Smith and Cameron Green, on the other hand, scored 32 runs each and the captain contributed only 10 runs to the total. England's Matthew Potts, Jacob Bethell, and Liam Livingstone bagged one wicket each. Moreover, in regard to the performance, Australia captain Mitchell Marsh hailed an "exceptional" team performance by saying: "The way we were able to pull it back (in the field) was great. "I think the calmness in the group has been great. There's illness flying around, it builds resilience in the team." — Agencies

Mohsin Naqvi meets ICC delegation in Islamabad

Delegation was satisfied with security arrangements and protocols arranged for upcoming tournament

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: International Cricket Council delegation met the Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board Mohsin Naqvi to evaluate the preparations for the forthcoming Champions Trophy. During their visit, the delegation team had a meeting with the Naqvi in Islamabad. As per the PCB, the meeting involved a comprehensive discussion about the preparations for the 2025 Champions Trophy scheduled in Pakistan. The ICC delegation reviewed the arrangements in the venues decided for the most-awaited event, including Karachi, Rawalpindi, and Islamabad. It is worth noting that the delegation was satisfied with security arrangements and protocols arranged for the tournament next year. Continuing with the discussion, Naqvi re-

assured the delegation of Pakistan's commitment to delivering world-class arrangements for the tournament. In addition, he emphasised that the development of the stadiums will be completed ahead of the schedule, and the participating teams will play in a secure and peaceful environment with facilities meeting their standards. The Chairman of PCB further highlighted the honour of hosting the mega-event and expressed their dedication in order to have a successful tournament. "The PCB is dedicated to provide infrastructure that matches the global significance of the event," he stated. The ICC delegation included Sarah Edgar, Senior Manager of Events; Aun Muhammad Zaidi, Event Manager and Champions Trophy Event Lead; Wasim Khan, General Manager of Cricket; David Masker, Security Manager' and MansoorManj, Broadcast Consultant. The Pakistan Crick-

et Board has arranged a one-day connection camp for the top-cricketers in Lahore on September 23. Following the conclusion of the final pool match of the Champions One-Day Cup on September 22. The Play-offs will kick off on September 24, allowing the players to rest for a day in between. Star players, including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Shan Masood, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and SaimAyub have been invited to participate in the camp. In the camp, Pakistan's white-ball head coach, Gary Kirsten will be in attendance, alongside red-ball coach Jason Gillespie, who will arrive in Lahore on September 22. Meanwhile, the camp aims to foster discussions regarding the future of Pakistan cricket and prepare the players for the forthcoming challenging tournament, especially, the mega event of Champions Trophy. Previously on Wednesday, Kirsten held an important

meeting with the head coaches and mentors of the ongoing Champions One-Day Cup. The white-ball head coach stressed the need for the same brand of cricket to be adopted in domestic cricket as is required for success at the international level. Continuing with the discussion, Kirsten encouraged mentors and head coaches to use their experience to improve the players' performance. "Individuals can win matches, but series and titles are won through teamwork," Kirsten said. He added that Pakistan has a wealth of talented cricketers who only need minor adjustments, skills, and fine-tuning. Sources added that Kirsten is also preparing a list of potential players who would be tried in the future. Pakistan's white-ball cricket schedule will be busy from November 2024 to April 2025, during which the team will play at least 18 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and nine Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

Justice Munib excluded...

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the committee is absent, as per The News. The ordinance also gave the CJP authority to assign cases. A notification was also issued by the top court's registrar's office in this regard which stated that the senior puisne judge — Justice Mansoor Ali Shah — was also among members of the three-member committee. A session of the judges' committee is expected to be summoned on Monday. The ordinance also includes an amendment in Section 3 of the Act. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, during the last days of its government to regulate the chief justice's powers. But they met a setback as even before the law was enacted on April 21, 2023, an eight-member bench constituted by then-CJP Umar Ata Bandial issued a stay order on it on April 13, 2023.

Ordinance to further improve...

FROM PAGE 01
by the President after approval from the federal cabinet. He said that from now on, the case that comes first would be taken up first by the court and the cases coming after would be fixed on their number. He said that in a case under section 184(3), it will have to be written why it was a matter of public importance. A formal order will be issued that if a case under Section 184(3) was taken up, whether it was a case of public importance, or human rights issue. He said under the ordinance, on 184 (3) any order passed by the Supreme Court, the right of appeal had been granted. According to this ordinance, a transcript will be prepared of the proceedings including judges' remarks and observations during the case and this text will also be available to the public. This step had been taken to make the judicial process more transparent, he opined.

Malaysian PM to visit Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01
visiting Pakistan Prime Minister visited Pakistan in March 2019, the sources said. This will be the first visit of Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan, diplomatic sources said. Sources said that several agreements and memorandums of understanding will be signed during the visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister to Pakistan. During his visit to Pakistan, the Malaysian Prime Minister will hold meetings with the Pakistani leadership including Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif. During the visit, mutual trade and investment will also be discussed and there will also be a special discussion on the Palestinian issue as both countries support a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue, diplomatic sources said.

Fazl says govt not to complete...

FROM PAGE 01
grievances of the general public. He disclosed that the government initially hesitated to provide a draft of the proposed amendments but after persistent efforts, copies were shared with both JUI-F and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). However, discrepancies were found between the draft, which raised concerns. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the chaotic situation in Islamabad, where the environment was tense. The JUI-F chief further stated that party's legal team was reviewing the draft and a final version would be prepared soon. Rehman lamented the government's attempt to pass incorrect laws through the parliament. He reaffirmed his stance on the judiciary and military's role within their boundaries. While concluding, he said the JUI-F had struck no alliance with the PTI and the party would focus on politics of ethics.

Briefs

Zafar appointed member BoG Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore has appointed Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari as member of its Board of Governors. Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari is a prominent business leader, philanthropist, columnist, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Secretary General United Business Group and son of Pakistan Movement's gold medalist worker Ghulam Nabi Bakhtawari.

According to the notification of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan dated Sept.10, 2024, its Management Committee has unanimously approved the name of Zafar Bakhtawari as its member in recognition of his services for the country in different fields of life. It is noteworthy that Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari is also Secretary General of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Forum Islamabad. Moreover, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, former Federal Ministers Raja Zafar ul Haq and Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum are also the members Board of Governors Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore from Islamabad.

Donald Trump, Kamala Harris deadlocked in US presidential race

UNITED NATIONS: Former US President Donald Trump, a Republican candidate, and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris remain deadlocked in a pair of polls released Thursday, but the Democratic nominee maintains a 4-point lead in the battleground state of Pennsylvania. (A battleground state where the number of Democratic and Republican voters is about the same, meaning that it has an important influence on the result of the election of the U.S. president). Trump and Ms. Harris each have 47 percent of likely voters' support nationwide, while Harris leads Trump 50 percent to 46 percent in the Keystone State, according to new data from The New York Times, Siena College and Philadelphia Inquirer. The polling was conducted almost entirely before the former president was targeted Sunday in a second apparent assassination attempt. Among registered voters nationally, Trump leads Ms. Harris 47 percent to 46 percent — a result that changed little from a poll conducted a week before that showed Trump leading 48 percent to 46 percent among registered voters nationally. In late July, immediately after former President Biden ended his bid for the White House, the results were similar: Trump led Harris 48 percent to 46 percent among registered voters. The results are all within the margins of error. The latest poll of likely voters shows Ms. Harris maintains a solid lead over Trump among women, with 53 percent support to his 41 percent. Among adults aged 18-29, the vice president garners 56 percent backing compared to the former president's 33 percent. Harris also brings in 77 percent support from Black voters, compared to the 14 percent who back Trump, the polling found. Trump, meanwhile, maintains a commanding lead nationally among men, with 52 percent backing him and 39 percent backing Harris.

Chinese companies asked to invest in Pak energy sectors

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik Friday invited Chinese enterprises, especially those from Shaanxi province, to invest in Pakistan's energy and petroleum sectors. In his opening remarks at China (Shaanxi)-Pakistan Conference for Economic and Trade Cooperation on the sidelines of the 8th Silk Road International Expo at Xi'an Shaanxi Province, China he said "Top companies from Pakistan specializing in upstream, midstream and downstream petroleum and coal companies were looking to work with Shaanxi Companies to collaborate through investment, joint ventures and technology transfer said a news release received here. He highlighted that this was a part of Pakistan's broader effort to attract foreign direct investment to bolster infrastructure and energy production, areas crucial for the country's socioeconomic development. He underscored efforts to deepen provincial-level



cooperation, focusing on enhancing B2B linkages across sectors such as mining, petroleum and energy, and technology. The Minister said that the 8th Silk Road International Expo was not just a celebration of trade and investment; it was a celebration of the

spirit of cooperation that defines the relationship between Pakistan and China. The minister noted that the Belt and Road Initiative and its flagship project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, were not only infrastructure projects but

platforms for peace, prosperity and development for the entire world. The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working together to create shared growth, sustainable development, and enduring friendship, based on win-win cooperation. The minister thanked the Gov-

ernment of China and the Provincial Government of Shaanxi for partnering and organizing the conference on the sidelines of 8th Silk Road International Expo. He also thanked the Shaanxi Government for inviting Pakistan as the Guest Country of Honor and for

the facilitation in setting up the Pakistan Pavilion at the expo. He underlined the significance of Xian and Shaanxi provinces as the starting point of the ancient Silk Road and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched by President Xi Jinping. "Dr. Musadik Malik said that Pakistan's participation in the expo was a tangible follow-up to the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Xi'an earlier this year. "Our long-standing friendship and strategic partnership is forged in a high degree of mutual trust, mutual benefit and mutual support. We are resolved to further our ironclad relationship with China in energy, economy, investment, trade and other areas" he said. The Minister highlighted the strong and expanding partnership between Pakistan and China. He emphasized the importance of bilateral economic cooperation, particularly under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which remains central to Pakistan's growth strategy.

PSX reaches all-time high amidst strong volumes

STAFF REPORT

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) benchmark index the KSE 100 Index has witnessed a historic day as the index surged to an all-time high, closing at 82,074.44 points. This remarkable achievement was marked by a gain of 615.16 points, representing a 0.76% increase from the previous day. The PSX reached a peak of 82,372.19 points and a low of 81,387.57 points during the trading session. Trading volumes were robust, with 482.37 million shares changing hands, amounting to a total value of PKR 30.188 billion. The number of trades executed stood at 229,192. According to Arif Habib Limited, this is the highest-ever closing for the KSE-100 Index, reflecting "strong investor confidence and positive market sentiment." The PSX opened with positive momentum and maintained a bullish trend throughout the session. The index hit a historic high of 82,004 points, closing the day with a significant gain of 998 points at 81,459 points, as per AKD research. Trading volumes saw a 24% increase compared to the previous session, indicating heightened investor activity.

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.83 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.91. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.25 and Rs 280.75 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 36 paise to close at Rs 310.19 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.83, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.93, whereas an increase of Rs 1.62 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs369.81 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 368.19. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 paise and 01 paise to close at Rs 75.64 and Rs74.04 respectively.

Gold rates up by Rs.3,500 per tola to Rs.272,000

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.3,500 and was sold at Rs.272,000 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs.268,500 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.3,001 to Rs.233,196 from Rs. 230,195 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs.213,763 from Rs. 211,012, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$35 to \$2,612 from \$2,577, the Association reported.

Bulgaria, Norway join probe into Hezbollah pager explosions

BUDAPEST/ OSLO: Bulgaria and Norway became the latest focus points on September 19 in the international investigation into who supplied Hezbollah with thousands of pagers that exploded in Lebanon, killing 12 and injuring over 2,300. Security sources have pointed to Israel as the likely perpetrator behind the September 17 explosions, which escalated tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. However, Israel has not officially commented on the attacks. While the exact method and assistance involved in the pager attacks remain unclear, leads have emerged in Taiwan, Hungary.—APP

France set to finally get new government

WEB DESK

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron was on Friday weighing a new government proposed by Prime Minister Michel Barnier which includes new faces in almost all key posts and marks a fresh shift to the right. The full cabinet line-up was due to be announced later Friday or by Sunday at the latest, multiple sources told AFP, ending two-and-a-half months of deadlock created by inconclusive legislative elections that wrapped up in July. While there appeared to be no major surprises or big name entrants into the cabinet, there are set to be new foreign, economy and interior ministers, with only the

defense minister remaining unchanged among the key offices of state. Barnier is proposing Europe Minister Jean-Noel Barrot as foreign minister, a source close to Macron's political faction, asking not to be named, told AFP. The move would be a major promotion for the 41-year-old, whose slick media appearances have impressed observers, but he would face the challenge of boosting France's presence on the international stage. Meanwhile Bruno Retailleau, who heads the faction of the right-wing The Republicans (LR) in France's upper house Senate, is to take on the interior ministry, according to several sources who spoke to AFP. Landing the interior ministry, which oversees

the police and domestic security, would be seen as a major success for the right. And another meteoric rise will see Antoine Armand, 33, the head of parliament's economic affairs commission installed as economy minister. One key person said to be staying on is Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu who is believed to enjoy a close and trusting relationship with Macron. Barnier was at the Elysee Palace late Thursday to discuss the nominations with Macron. The list is a government "ready to act in the service of the French people," the premier's office said. It later said the new government would be unveiled "before Sunday." Macron could seek to veto Barnier's proposals

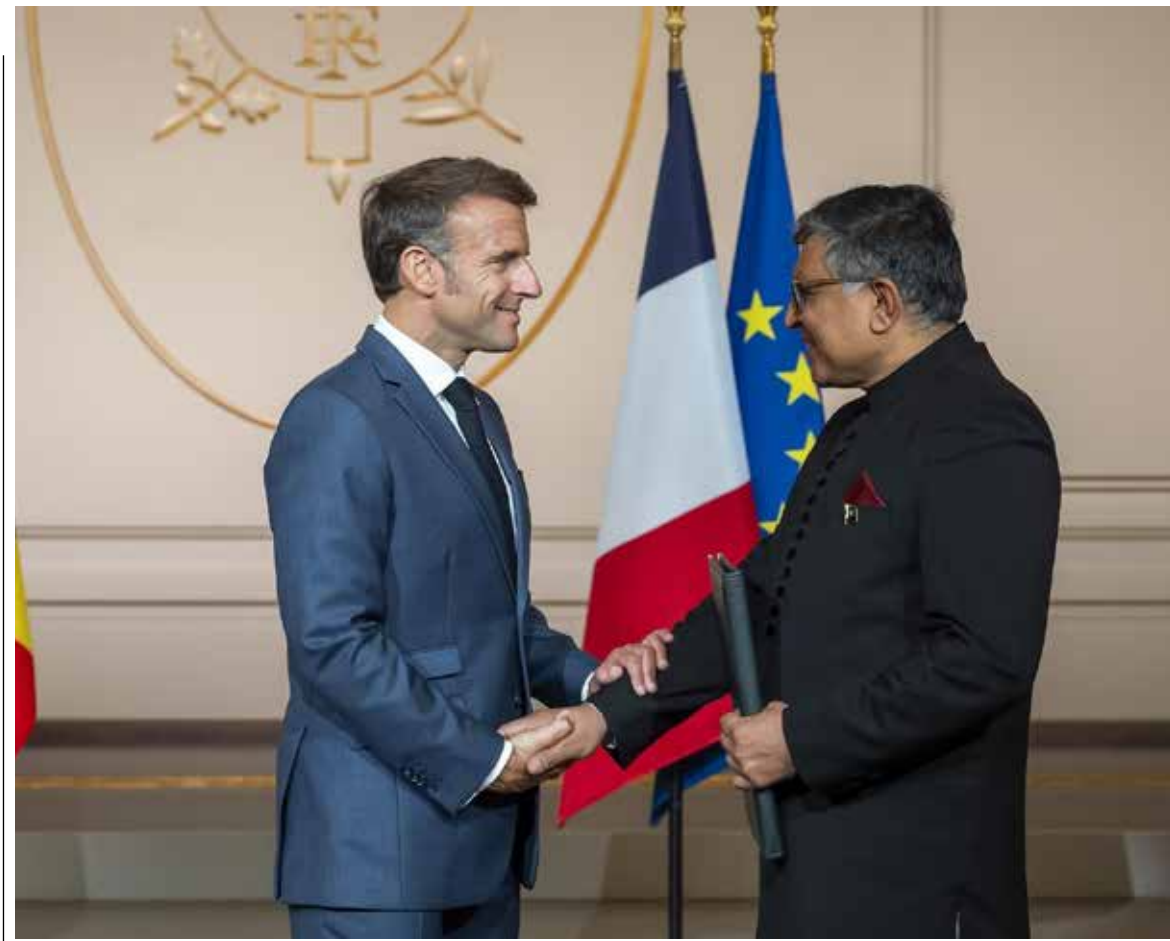
but doing so would cause immense tensions with his premier at this stage. Sources added that names still need to be vetted to ensure they have no conflicts of interest before entering government, as is customary. But Macron "will not censor any name," said a source close to him asking not to be named. There had been tensions earlier this week between centrist Macron and Barnier, who comes from the LR, over the balance of the government notably at a lunch earlier this week that reports said was far from cordial. Le Monde daily said that Barnier had even raised the possibility of resigning just days into the job. But the tensions were then resolved on Thursday.

EU chief says in Kyiv to offer support ahead of winter

KYIV: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Friday that she had arrived in Kyiv to offer support ahead of winter, as Russia keeps up its bombing campaign of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. "My 8th visit to Kyiv comes as the heating season starts soon, and Russia keeps targeting energy infrastructure," she wrote on X, formerly Twitter, along with a picture of her at a rail station. "We will help Ukraine in its brave efforts. I come here to discuss Europe's support. From winter preparedness to defense, to accession and progress on the G7 loans." Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dragged on for more than 30 months, with Ukraine now controlling parts of Russia's Kursk region while Moscow presses an advance into eastern Ukraine. Ukraine has lobbied its allies to allow it to use donated weapons to strike "legitimate" military targets deep in Russian territory. The United States and Britain have been discussing allowing it to do just that — but EU states remain divided over the issue. On Thursday, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on EU countries to allow Kyiv to use Western weapons to strike military targets inside Russia. Washington currently authorizes Ukraine to only hit Russian targets in occupied parts of Ukraine and some in Russian border regions directly related to Moscow's combat operations.—Agencies

Media reports put Russian military death toll at 70,000

WARSAW: The BBC and the independent Russian news site Mediazona said on Friday they had documented the deaths of around 70,000 Russian soldiers since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The toll comes from publicly available information such as official statements, death notices in the media and announcements on social media, as well as tombstones in Russian cemeteries. "We have identified the names of 70,112 Russian soldiers killed in Ukraine but the actual number is believed to be considerably higher," the BBC said. "Some families do not share details of their relatives' deaths publicly — and our analysis does not include names we were unable to check, or the deaths of militia in Russian-occupied Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine," the British broadcaster added. The same two organizations had put the toll at 66,000 in mid-August. Mediazona and another independent Russian news site, Meduza, have also analyzed official data from notaries on inheritance cases. This has led them to estimate that the military death toll could be much higher — at 120,000. The toll is considered secret in Russia. Ukraine also communicates very little about losses for fear of demoralizing its citizens after more than two and a half years of Russia's invasion. In February, President Volodymyr Zelensky said around 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers had died, although analysts and observers have said they believe the real number to be much higher. The Wall Street Journal reported this week that the war had killed or injured a total of one million soldiers on both sides. "A confidential Ukrainian estimate from earlier this year put the number of dead Ukrainian troops at 80,000 and the wounded at 400,000, according to people familiar with the matter. "Western intelligence estimates of Russian casualties vary, with some putting the number of dead as high as nearly 200,000 and wounded at around 400,000," it said.—APP



PARIS: Pakistan ambassador to Andorra presenting his credential to the President of France Emanuel Macron, who is also Co. Prince of Andorra. —DNA

World leaders to gather at UN as crises grow and conflicts rage

WEB DESK

NEW YORK CITY: World leaders will descend on the United Nation's New York HQ from Sunday for the organization's annual signature gathering against an explosive backdrop of raging wars, growing populism and diplomatic deadlock. The war in Gaza, soaring Middle East tensions, famine conditions in Sudan's civil war and the grinding conflict in Ukraine are among the rancorous issues on the agenda of the presidents and prime ministers attending the General Assembly's high-level week — the UN's showpiece event. But UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres insisted this week that the world would be able to "avoid moving to World War Three." "What we are witnessing is a multiplication of conflicts and the sense of impunity," Guterres said at a briefing,

The gathering "could not come in a more critical and more challenging moment," said Washington's UN envoy Linda Thomas-Greenfield. "The list of crises and conflicts that demand attention and action only seem to grow and grow... it's easy to fall into cynicism. "But we can't afford to do that." It is unclear what if anything the grand gathering, the World Cup of diplomacy, can achieve for the millions mired in conflict and poverty globally. With Israel's leader Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian, due to attend, "Gaza will obviously be the most prominent of these conflicts in terms of what leaders are saying," said Richard Gowan of the International Crisis Group. He suggested the set piece diplomatic speeches and posturing would "not actually make a great deal of difference to events on the

ground." The war in Gaza began after Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, which ultimately resulted in the deaths of more than 1,200 people, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. More than 41,272 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military campaign in Gaza since the war began, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. The UN has acknowledged these figures as reliable. Fears are high that the conflict could boil over into Lebanon, where a series of deadly explosions apparently targeted Hezbollah's communications this week. Israel has yet to comment. The action in New York begins Sunday with a "Summit of the Future," Guterres' flagship attempt to get ahead of challenges that will face the world in coming years. World leaders, expected to include India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will attend to

adopt a pact on how to confront the most pressing issues going forward. Despite intense negotiations and Guterres calling on leaders to show "courage," the draft text has been panned by observers as badly lacking in ambition. "One of the risks, and it's more than a risk, (is) that the Summit of the Future may look like the summit of the past, and in the best-case scenario, the summit of the present," said another diplomat. Guterres insists the summit has value, saying that "international challenges are moving faster than our ability to solve them." "We see out of control, geopolitical divisions and runaway conflicts, not least in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and beyond, runaway climate change, runaway inequalities... and our institutions simply can't keep up," he said. The ICRC's UN representative Laetitia Courtois said it was vital that conflict was tackled "right now," not as "an objective for the next

generation." The summit will be followed by the high-level week at which the UN's 193 members will address each other, kicking off with Brazil. That will be followed by the United States, with President Joe Biden due to speak — likely on ceasefire talks in Gaza, among other issues. The leaders of China and Russia will be absent as in past years, but Britain's Keir Starmer, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, and Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will be present. Zelensky was the star attraction in 2023, but one diplomat said he would struggle to stay in the spotlight this year as he presents his "plan for victory." Ahead of the gala events, a security ring of steel was being erected around the UN's riverfront HQ and local people and businesses braced for traffic paralysis caused by the endless VIP motorcades and street closures.

Briefs

President lauds security forces

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out anti-terror operations in North and South Waziristan and eliminating Khawarij (terrorists). The president reiterated the nation's resolve to purge the country of terrorists and paid tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the operations. "The sacrifices of soldiers for their homeland will never be squandered. The security forces will keep up fighting till the elimination of terrorism in toto. The whole nation stands by its security forces to curb this scourge," the president remarked. He also expressed sympathies for the bereaved families and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of martyrs' ranks in paradise. - APP

SC fixes ECP's petition on tribunals

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday fixed the petition of ECP regarding the formation of election tribunals in Punjab for hearing. The five-member bench headed by CJP Qazi Faez Isa will conduct the hearing on Sept 24. Other members of bench are Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi. Earlier, the apex court had adjourned the hearing till the consultation between the ECP and Lahore High Court chief justice. The Lahore High Court had given a verdict to constitute eight election tribunals in Punjab. Later, the decision of LHC was challenged in the Supreme Court by the ECP. "It is prerogative of Election Commission of Pakistan to constitute the election tribunals. LHC cannot exercise the powers of ECP," said the ECP in its petition.

CEC suspends three officers

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja Friday suspended three officers over incompetence and mismanagement charges. According to the notification issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja suspended Sindh Election Commissioner Sharifullah, Director of Administration, Azhar Hussain Tunio and Karachi Election Officer Khuda Bux for 120 days over incompetence and mismanagement. All three officers will remain in Karachi until the inquiry is completed and further orders are issued, according to the notification. Earlier in August, ECP strongly rejected propaganda by Omar Ayub Khan against the CEC and other members. In this connection, a wrong statement was given on a TV channel in which an allegation was levelled that total expenditure on general elections 2024 stood at Rs 14.5 billion but the ECP demanded more expenditures to the then government to get an opportunity for postponing the elections, said a statement.

AC adjourns 190 million pound case

COURT REPORT

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Friday adjourned the hearing of the £190 million corruption reference against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. Judge Nasir Javed Rana heard the case, with both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi present. During the proceedings, Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Usman Kiaz Gul, continued cross-examining the investigating officer, Mian Umar Nadeem. On the previous hearing, Imran Khan's lawyer, Chaudhry Zaheer Abbas, had completed his cross-examination.

Chinese enterprise to set up textile parks in Pakistan

In the first phase, these parks are expected to generate exports worth two billion dollars, while in the second phase, exports are likely to reach five billion dollars. These textile parks will provide employment opportunities to around half million locals



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The RUYI Group of China will establish Textile Parks of international standard in Pakistan. To this effect, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Board of Investment and RUYI Shandong Group in Islamabad on Friday. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing of the MoU, after having a meeting with the nine-member delegation of the RUYI group led by its Chairman Qui Yafu. The RUYI Group briefed the Prime Minister that it will establish Textile Parks of international standard in Sindh and Punjab and around 100 large textile industries from China will be invited for

investment in these parks. It was told that the objective of these textile parks is to enhance Pakistan's textile exports and to make the country textile and garments hub of the world. It was further briefed that solar energy will be used in these textile parks and they will operate on zero carbon and advanced automated technology. In the first phase, these parks are expected to generate exports worth two billion dollars, while in the second phase, exports are likely to reach five billion dollars. These textile parks will provide employment opportunities to around half million locals. The foundation stone of these textile parks will be laid by the end of this year, and they will be completed within three years. The RUYI Group will

also set up wholesale commodity centers in Karachi and Lahore. During the meeting, it was decided to establish working groups in Islamabad and Beijing to advance matters between Pakistan and the RUYI Group. The Prime Minister, on the occasion, directed the formation of a special committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in this regard. The committee will comprise federal ministers for commerce, investment and privatization, industry and production, the foreign secretary, a representative of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, and Zafaruddin Mahmood. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said China is a friend of Pakistan that has stood by Pakistan in every

difficult time. He said economic relations between Pakistan and China are getting stronger with each passing day. Shehbaz Sharif further said that RUYI Group was the first investor in the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He appreciated the RUYI Group's deep interest in investing in Pakistan's textile sector. In his remarks, Chairman RUYI Group Qui Yafu said they came to Pakistan not as investors, but as friends of Pakistan. He mentioned the rapid development works known as 'Shehbaz Speed' during the Prime Minister's tenure as Chief Minister of Punjab and expressed hope that this time too, the same speed will be seen in the completion of development projects.

CJP Isa says abusing him is the easiest job

Comments made during apex court hearing on the appointment of permanent vice-chancellors at public sector universities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa voiced strong criticism over the misuse of media to launch personal attacks, remarking that the "easiest job is to hurl abuse at the Chief Justice." His comments were made during a Supreme Court hearing regarding the appointment of permanent vice-chancellors at public sector universities, particularly in the case involving Samina Malik, Rector of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU). The three-member bench, led by Chief Justice Isa, addressed the issue of Samina Malik's absence from court and university meetings, citing health reasons. The court questioned the legitimacy of the medical certificate provided by Malik, noting that the certificate was issued under the name "Samina Rashid," different from the name on official documents. This discrepancy prompted the Chief Justice to suggest that the certificate might be fake. Samina Malik's lawyer, Rehanuddin Golra, argued that her health condition was genuine, presenting her inability to attend meetings due to back problems. A heated exchange ensued between the Chief Justice and the lawyer, with Chief Justice Isa pointing out inconsistencies and questioning why she had repeatedly failed to appear or participate in person, while relying on online attendance for meetings. The lawyer insisted that Malik had attended other meetings online and was only absent from one. Chief Justice Isa expressed frustration over the apparent evasion of responsibilities by citing health excuses, asking whether Malik's continued position as rector was justified. "If she is unwell to this extent, why should she remain in the post?" he asked, noting that important decisions in the university were being delayed due to her absence. During the hearing, the court ordered Samina Malik to ap-

pear in person, and she was brought to the courtroom in a wheelchair. Chief Justice Isa reprimanded her for avoiding official meetings, emphasising that her excuses were becoming a pattern. He also questioned why the Higher Education Commission (HEC) had allowed this to continue. "Is there only one woman in all of Pakistan who is always sick?" the Chief Justice remarked, sarcastically addressing Samina Malik's frequent absences. The court further criticised the growing practice of media manipulation, where journalists are allegedly hired to spread negativity and attack public figures. Chief Justice Isa noted that a handful of "rented journalists" have made it a practice to hurl abuses at judges and public officials, suggesting that it was becoming the norm. "Three or four paid journalists will go and start hurling abuses; is that acceptable?" he said. He also commented on the rising trend of personal attacks through media campaigns, especially targeting the judiciary. "The easiest job is to hurl abuse at the Chief Justice," he added. The Chief Justice highlighted the importance of holding individuals accountable for such attacks and asked whether the Supreme Court should start taking contempt of court notices to prevent this behaviour. In his concluding remarks, Chief Justice Isa called on the federal government to decide whether Samina Malik should continue as rector or be replaced. He also urged the authorities to address the issue of manipulated media narratives that harm the judiciary and public figures. "It is not about one person or one case. This is about setting a precedent for accountability in public institutions," he stated. The case also touched on broader issues, including the administrative gaps in public sector universities and the need for transparent appointments. As the court continues to deliberate on the matter, it remains to be seen whether the government will take action regarding Samina Malik's position.

Israeli airstrikes target Beirut; several children among fatalities

NEWS DESK

BEIRUT: The Israeli military has carried out airstrikes against the Lebanese capital Beirut. On Friday, the military said it had staged a "targeted strike" against the city. At least five children are among those killed in the attack. Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network said a drone had fired several missiles against Beirut's heavily-populated Dahiyeh suburb. According to Lebanon's official National News (NNA), "five children were martyred in the hostile airstrike." The agency added that an F35 jet targeted residential areas with two strikes. Media outlets cited sources as saying that the attack targeted Ibrahim Aqil, a senior commander of Hezbollah's Jihad Council, which is responsible for directing the group's military and security activities. He has replaced Fuad Shukur, who was assassinated in an Israeli targeted killing attack against Beirut on July 30. The Israeli regime has intensified its attacks on the country, mostly its southern areas, since October 7, when it launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Hezbollah has been responding with hundreds of retaliatory strikes both in support of the war-hit Gazans and in response to the Israeli escalation against Lebanon. Earlier on Friday, the regime carried out, what was described as, the "heaviest" of its attacks to target southern Lebanon since the onset of the escalation. Hezbollah responded by firing scores of Katyusha rockets towards at least six Israeli army headquarters and bases in the northern part of the occupied Palestinian territories. It specified some of the targets as the main base of the Israeli Northern Command's missile system in Berea Barracks, the air and missile headquarters in Keila Barracks, and the 188th Armored Brigade of the 36th Division in the Aliqa Barracks. "Some 140 rockets were fired from Lebanon within an hour starting at 1:02 pm (1002 GMT)," a spokesman for the Israeli military, meanwhile, said.

Macron says 'diplomatic path exists' in Lebanon

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron delivered a heartfelt message to the people of Lebanon through a video address on his social media platforms, expressing deep concern over the country's escalating crises. "Your country is so dear to my heart," Macron said, underscoring France's long-standing bond with Lebanon. "At every challenge, we stand by your side, faithfully and fraternally." Recalling the devastation of the Aug. 4, 2020, Beirut port explosion, Macron reminded viewers of his visit two days later to express France's unwavering solidarity with the Lebanese people. However, he noted, Lebanon now faces a new wave of sorrow and fear. "The grief for all the civilian victims of this week's attacks and for their grieving families is overwhelming," he said. Macron also highlighted the growing fear in Lebanon, with economic, political, and social crises now compounded by the threat of war. "Lebanon cannot live in fear of imminent war," he warned. "We must reject this fatality." The French president shared that he had spoken with Lebanon's leaders, as well as key figures from Israel and Iran, to emphasize the importance of avoiding conflict and preserving Lebanon. "It is up to your political leaders to act accordingly," he added. "A diplomatic path exists, though it is demanding. This is the path that France wants to chart for Lebanon, with all its partners." Macron called for honesty and responsibility from all parties involved, including Lebanese politicians, Israelis, Iranians, and international partners. "No one has an interest in escalation," he stated, stressing the need to protect Lebanon's integrity, security, and sovereignty. - Agencies

Pakistan becomes IAEA BoG member

Development is a recognition of country's commitment to promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy, says FO

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been elected as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Governors (BoG) for the 21st time. The Foreign Office said in a statement on Friday that the country was elected by consensus at the 68th Session of the IAEA's General Conference in Vienna, from the Middle East and South Asia region, for the two-year term beginning this month. The development is a recognition of its long-standing commitment to the aims and objectives of the IAEA in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy as well as its positive contribution to the formulation of the IAEA's policies and programmes, the FO added. It is to be noted that Pakistan is a founding member of the IAEA and has enjoyed longstanding and mutually beneficial collaboration with the Agency on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Earlier this month, Pakistan was also elected as the President for the Tenth Review meeting of the CNS.

Putin warns West of 'disastrous consequences'

Foreign ministry says Russia, Belarus were part of 'Union State', had agreed to jointly defend their common borders

MOSCOW: Russia warned the West and Ukraine on Friday of "disastrous consequences" if Kyiv moved against close Russian ally Belarus, making clear it would intervene to defend a country where it has deployed tactical nuclear weapons. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters that Moscow was concerned by what she called increasingly "provocative" activity on the border with Belarus, saying she did not rule out that there could be attempts to escalate in the region. Days after Ukraine's surprise Aug. 6 incursion into Russia's Kursk region, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko - a loyal ally of President Vladimir Putin - suggested, without providing evidence. - Agencies

Iran summons Afghan envoy for 'disrespecting' anthem

Standing up during the national anthem is a widely practiced gesture of respect and patriotism in many countries. It is often seen as a way to honour the nation and its values

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran summoned the acting head of Afghanistan's embassy on Friday after saying a visiting Afghan official disrespected the country's national anthem by not standing, days after a similar incident in Pakistan. Standing up during the national anthem is a widely practiced gesture of respect and patriotism in many countries. It is often seen as a way to honour the nation and its values. Pakistan condemned the "reprehensible disrespect" for the country's national anthem by an Afghan diplomat, who decided to remain seated when the anthem was played at a Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government event on Tuesday, sparking an uproar on social and mainstream media. However, the Afghan consulate downplayed the incident, attributing the envoy's decision to remain seated to the presence of "music in the anthem". Following the incident at a conference in Tehran on Islamic unity, the Afghan delegate apologised, but said he didn't stand up because music in public was banned by the Taliban. An Iranian foreign ministry statement said a "strong protest" had been lodged after the Afghan official's "unconventional and unacceptable action".

Sizzling WOK
ASIAN CUISINE

OPENING SOON

PAN ASIAN CUISINE
F-6/3, Kohsar Market, Islamabad