



Islamabad POST

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Marxist Dissanayake wins Sri Lankan presidential elections

Detailed News On Page-08

Thunberg condemns Gaza 'genocide'

Detailed News On Page-08



Musetti advances at Chengdu

Detailed News On Page-06



1 cop martyred, 3 injured

Diplomats safe as IED hits the security squad

Diplomats of Vietnam, Indonesia Kazakhstan, Bosnia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and others countries were invited to take part in one day seminar on tourism promotion

STAFF REPORT / DNA

SWAT: At least one police officer was martyred, and four others were wounded in a "remote-controlled bomb explosion" targeting a police van guarding a convoy of foreign envoys heading to Malam Jabba from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district on Sunday. District Police Officer (DPO) Zahidullah Khan confirmed the explosion, stating the attack targeted a group of foreign diplomats, resulting in one officer losing his life and four others being injured. DPO Khan detailed that the affected mobile van was leading the convoy of 11 foreign diplomats, adding that the martyred policeman was identified as Burhan while four wounded cops include a sub-inspector. Police officials informed the media that all envoys were safe after the explosion and had been shifted to Islamabad. They added that the diplomats were heading to Malam Jabba after attending an event at the Chamber of Commerce in Mingora when the explosion occurred in the suburban area of Sherabad. The police confirmed that the convoy included ambassadors from Russia, Portugal, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, and other countries. The wounded officers were transported to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) in Saidu Sharif. Heavy contingents of law enforcement agencies were deployed in the area following the incident. They added that the diplomats were heading to Malam Jabba after attending an event at the Chamber of Commerce in Mingora when the explosion occurred in

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President, PM condemn terror attack in Swat

Says entire nation salutes the sacrifices of the police force in the fight against terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police mobile in the Malam Jabba area of Swat district. In a statement today, he prayed for a higher status in heaven for the police personnel martyred in the attack, and extended his condolences to the bereaved family. The Prime Minister also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel and directed that they be provided with all possible medical assistance. Shehbaz Sharif said

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UK trade commissioner begins key visit to Pak

During his visit, Christian will announce significant new partnerships

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: UK Trade Commissioner for Middle East and Pakistan Oliver Christian has landed in Islamabad on his first visit to Pakistan, kicking off a three-day effort to strengthen the UK's economic and trade links with Pakistan. During his visit, Christian will announce significant new partnerships, including a strategic Transnational Education agreement between Beaconhouse International College and the University of Essex; and collaboration between Imperial Healthcare NHS Trust at the Novacare Hospital in Islamabad. These initiatives are set to deepen the UK's investment in Pakistan's education and healthcare sectors. The University of Essex partnership aims to provide Pakistani students with access to world-class education, while the Novacare project will set a new standard in healthcare facilities and services in

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Dr. Zakir Naik confirms Pakistan tour



WEB DESK

LAHORE: World-renowned Islamic scholar Dr. Zakir Naik has confirmed his highly anticipated visit to Pakistan, where he would deliver a series of public lectures in major cities. The announcement that was made on his official Facebook page on September 20 has generated significant excitement among his followers. Dr. Naik's tour is set to begin on October 5 in Karachi and would conclude in Islamabad on October 20. Alongside him would be his son, Dr. Fariq Naik, also a respected Islamic scholar, who would participate in the lectures across all three cities: Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. The Karachi event is scheduled to take place at Bagh-e-Quaid, located directly opposite the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

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LONDON: Ishaq Dar, Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Pakistan along with Pakistani HC greeting British-Pakistani boxer Hamzah Sheeraz on the Middleweight European Boxing title. (News on Page 6). - DNA

PM stresses national unity

People reject 'politics of anarchy', endorse govt's sound policies

Instead of focusing on political rallies, the immediate need is to improve the country's economic condition, says premier

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Referring to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) power show in Lahore - which the government called a dud - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said "the people of Pakistan have rejected 'politics of anarchy' and prioritised improvements in economic policies." A day earlier, the former ruling party held a public rally in Lahore, which came to an abrupt end after police stormed the stage, turning off the microphone and lights, forcing PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and other party leaders to leave. The police and district administration swung into action after the PTI rally exceeded the 6pm deadline specified in the no-objection certificate (NOC). Even the first-tier leadership, including Omar Ayub, Asad Qaiser,

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Govt consents over tariff reduction of state-run IPPs

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: The government has agreed over tariff reduction of the state-run IPPs. Sources said that a major development with regard to talks on tariffs with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) likely soon. "The Power Sector Task Force has completed its overall review of the tariffs of more than 100 power plants, some IPPs will be shut down in phases while relief will be provided to consumers in all tariffs," sources said. "The government

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Briefs

PM urged to focus on relief

Criticises govt on issue of constitutional package

DNA

KAHUTA: Criticising the government on the issue of constitutional amendment bill and the appointment of judges, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider has said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is just focusing on how to give extension to the judges instead of giving relief to the poor. Speaking at an international law conference at Kahuta University, the governor said when they were in the opposition, they trumpeted merit and when they were in the government, they thought what they wanted was the merit. It is not the job of the PM to pick a chief justice out of four or five judges; when it happened in the past, politicians were rebuked and punished, Saleem Haider said.

Ahsan says we will resist conspiracies

Raises concerns about an ongoing int'l media campaign supporting Imran

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says political and military leadership will resist any conspiracy to destabilize the country. Speaking at a ceremony in Zafarwal today, he said enemies of Pakistan want to destabilize the country politically, economically and socially. He raised concerns about an ongoing international media campaign supporting PTI founder. The Minister said a prominent Israeli journal, the Jerusalem Post, has published the third article favoring PTI founder. He said this series of articles was part of a larger campaign orchestrated by pro-Israel and Zionist lobbies to promote PTI founder.

Says govt is failing

JUI's leader calls for immediate elections

Party's sec-gen questions legitimacy of 2018 and 2024 elections, says they did not result in stable governments

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islam (JUI), declared that the current government can no longer continue and demanded immediate, transparent elections. Speaking to the media in Karachi on Sunday, he stated that the government's authority is failing across the country. He noted that in rural Sindh, bandits are routinely kidnapping people, and in Balochistan, there is no one to prevent the closure of national highways. Haideri criticised the legitimacy of both the 2018 and 2024 elections, claiming that they have not resulted in stable governments, and accused authorities of installing corrupt individuals through these electoral processes. Haideri highlighted that government officials have acknowledged the current administration's inability to function effectively. He asserted that issues in Balochistan

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Hafiz Naem criticises country's education system

Ji chief also expresses concern over underdevelopment of Balochistan and lack of healthcare facilities

DNA

KARACHI: Hafiz Naemur Rehman, chief of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), criticised the government's policies, stating that it has failed to provide citizens with basic facilities such as health and education. Speaking as a guest of honour during a two-day convention organised by the Pakistan Medical Association at

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Pak set to raise Palestine, Kashmir issues at UNGA

"We will present Pakistan's perspective to the world," tweets Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be attending the upcoming 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) wherein he will highlight Palestine, Islamophobia and other issues during his address slated for September 27, the Foreign Office said in a statement on Sunday. The premier, set to attend the UNGA session from September 23 to 27, will underscore the importance of addressing long-standing issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council (UNSC) such as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine. The prime minister, a day earlier, reached London for a short tour from where he would depart for New York on Monday (today). "Departing for New York to represent Pakistan at the 79th UN General Assembly. Looking forward to a busy week full of engagements. We will present Pakistan's perspective to the world," the PM said in a post on X. Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was also scheduled to travel to the US for the UNGA session, however, his trip was

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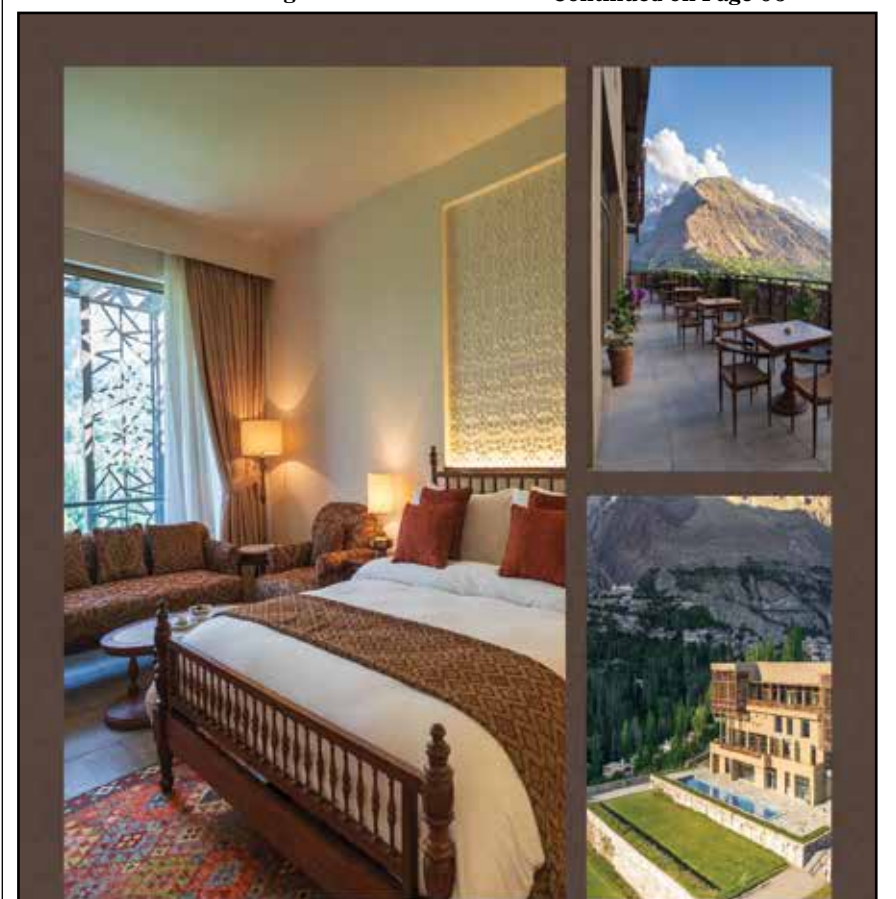
Efforts afoot to repatriate body of student from China

There are legal procedures and regulations that need to be fulfilled, says Foreign Office

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Pakistan's embassy in Beijing was in contact with the university and family of the student who passed away in China. In a statement, she said there are legal procedures and regulations that need to be fulfilled for repatriation of

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Govt to introduce coop farming to boost vegetable production

DNA

LAHORE :In a significant move to enhance the cultivation of vegetables, including tomatoes and onions, the Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has decided to introduce cooperative farming. This initiative aims to support small farmers and ensure a steady supply of produce to combat artificial inflation. Additionally, it seeks to modernize agriculture, bolster local farming, and enhance food security for the province. During a special meeting chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, here on Sunday, it was announced that groups of 5 to 10 vegetable farmers will receive subsidies for seeds, fertilizers, drip irrigation, and solarization. The project

will launch a seasonal cultivation initiative across 2,000 acres for onions and tomatoes, allowing for local availability of these crops for six months. This will significantly reduce reliance on imported produce and help stabilize prices. The plan includes the cultivation of off-season tomatoes in districts such as Khairpur Paka, Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari, and Rajanpur, and onions in Khushab, Chakwal, Rawalpindi, and Jhelum. By enabling local farmers to grow these vegetables during the off-season, the government aims to prevent price hikes caused by seasonal shortages. Additionally, the meeting approved the establishment of agricultural machinery rental services throughout Punjab. This service will provide tractors, harvesters, and other modern agricultural equipment to farmers on a no-profit, no-loss basis,

facilitating easier access to necessary tools for cultivation. A joint working group has been formed to identify over 67 locations for the machinery selection and rental. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also directed officials to ensure wheat sowing on government land, reinforcing the commitment to bolster agricultural output in the province. The meeting reviewed recommendations for the "Transforming Punjab Agriculture" initiative, focusing on sustainable and efficient farming practices. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information and Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Agriculture Minister Ashiq Hussain Karmani, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dall, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Energy, and other officials were also present.



MULتان: Pigeons gather to drink water from a roadside pond. APP

Crackdown on illegal wildlife trade geared up : Marriyum

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has affirmed that the Punjab government's crackdown on the illegal trade and smuggling of rare wildlife and birds is gearing up. Following a tip-off, the Wildlife Department, in collaboration with police, conducted a successful operation in Taunsa, resulting in the arrest of a suspect. During the operation, a rare eagle valued at over \$36,000 was recovered, and the bird was found to be in good physical condition. The arrested individual is believed to be involved in the smuggling of rare birds abroad. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb praised the Wildlife Department on behalf of the Chief Minister Punjab, stating that the recovered eagle will be fitted with a tracker before being released back into the wild. She emphasized the critical role that birds play in maintaining ecological balance. Marriyum Aurangzeb highlighted that under the Chief Minister's policy for the protection of forests and wildlife, continuous operations are being carried out across the province. Numerous rare animals and birds have been rescued and transferred to zoos, while many others have received medical treatment to save their lives. The senior minister asserted that the government is committed to preserving biodiversity and combating illegal wildlife trafficking in Punjab, while ensuring a safe and sustainable environment for both wildlife and local ecosystems.—DNA

Rescue 1122 delivers first medical aid to 58 persons on MDC at test day

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The medical team of Rescue 1122 provided first medical aid to 58 persons on the occasion of the MDC test held at Gomal Medical College here on Sunday. According to rescue 1122, these services were provided under the instructions of Director General Rescue 1122 Dr. Ayaz Khan and Regional Operations Director South Imran Khan Yousafzai. Under the supervision of District Emergency Officer Engineer Fasiullah, Emergency Officer Naumanullah Marwat led the team, which utilized an ambulance and a medical bike to deliver emergency services. It said that Rescue 1122 was committed to public health and safety and its teams were always ready for tackling any emergency.

Earthquake jolts Swat, adjoining areas

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale jolted Swat and its surrounding areas on Saturday. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), reported a private news channel. The earthquake's depth was recorded at 89 kilometers, with its epicenter located in the Hindu Kush Mountain range. Tremors were felt across Swat and adjoining regions, causing brief panic among residents. However, no immediate reports of damage or casualties have been received.—APP

40 Pakistani companies explore growing investment opportunities with Chinese counterparts

ISLAMABAD: Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province in northwestern China, is witnessing an unprecedented surge in cooperation between Pakistan and China. The China (Shaanxi)-Pakistan Economic and Trade Cooperation Fair, recently held in conjunction with the Silk Road International Exposition, highlighted the vibrant relationship between the two nations. The occasion brought together around 40 Pakistani companies, including both public and private oil and gas enterprises, keen to explore growing investment opportunities with their Chinese counterparts. In an interview with China Economic Net, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi emphasized the significance of the fair. He said, "This is the first time, perhaps in recent memory, that such a large delegation and sectors-specific conference is being convened in Shaanxi Province." He noted, underscoring the momentum generated in recent months, particularly after the Pakistani

Prime Minister's visit to the province in June. "Since CPEC entered its second phase last year, a new chapter in our economic relationship—focused on B2B cooperation—is unfolding. We have identified 13 priority sectors, including energy, mines and minerals, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizers, textiles, leather, IT, and services. Through events like this, we aim to attract Chinese investment to these sectors in Pakistan," Ambassador Hashmi said. Shaanxi Province has seen a remarkable boost in its trade with Pakistan this year, with the trade volume nearly doubling between January and August. The province's prowess in photovoltaic (PV) technology is particularly notable, with a local solar energy company commanding up to 40% of Pakistan's market share at its peak. Pakistan, as the guest country of honor for the first time at the Silk Road International Exposition, hosted one of the largest national pavilions, showcasing a wide range of Pakistani culture, products,

and investment opportunities, especially in the energy sector, providing a platform for business networking, joint ventures, and trade promotion. Ambassador Hashmi also praised China's technological advancements and expertise. "China has vast experience in manufacturing, industrialization, and special economic zones—areas where we are working closely together." He said, "We are incredibly proud to have developed our partnership and friendship with China for 73 out of its 75 years." He pointed to the achievements made through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which have played a transformative role in Pakistan's economy. Over the past decade, CPEC projects have added more than 8,000 megawatts of electricity, built over 800 kilometers of highways and fiber optic cables, and attracted nearly \$26 billion in investments, he maintained. Looking ahead, Ambassador Hashmi expressed optimism about future collaboration.—APP

Olive oil extraction unit launched in South Waziristan

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: An olive oil extraction machine has been inaugurated in Lower South Waziristan. In this regard, a ceremony was held at the district agriculture office Wana where Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan officially launched the facility in collaboration with the agriculture department. Tribal elders and agriculture officials attended the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, the deputy commissioner said the machine would help enhance production for farmers who played a key role in the country's economic development. He also mentioned that the machine had been designed as per local requirements as it could also be run by generators and other power sources in case of electricity shortages or loadshedding. However, he added that steps were being taken for solarization of the facility in order to reap full benefits of the facility. Agriculture Officer Habib ur Rehman Wazir informed that this season, it had been projected the facility would extract 10,000 liters of olive oil. He assured that farmers associated with olive orchards will receive facilities at their doorstep. He said the initiative would not only boost the local economy but also improve the lives of farmers.—APP

Namak Mandi's culinary delights draw foodies in droves on weekend

PESHAWAR :Renowned for its hospitality, Peshawar's famed food street, Namak Mandi, welcomed an influx of food enthusiasts on Sunday. Families and friends gathered to savor a variety of traditional dishes in a relaxed atmosphere, as cooler weather enhanced the dining experience especially at night. As temperatures dipped, Namak Mandi celebrated for its BBQ, Mattan Karahi, Chappli Kabab, and Peshawari rice Polao became a bustling hub for locals and tourists alike. Situated behind the historic Qissa Khwani bazaar, this vibrant street is a magnet for those seeking authentic flavors. Visitors often found themselves lounging on traditional charpoys at food stalls, indulging in the rich tastes of Chappli Kabab and Mattan Karahi, complemented by fragrant green tea. "Chappli Kabab and Mattan Karahi are my favorites;

I can't leave without enjoying them," shared tourist Fayaz Khan from Nowshera. Many patrons echoed similar sentiments, relishing the experience while awaiting their meals. "After a year, I returned to enjoy Mattan Karahi and green tea here. The 30-minute wait for food fosters conversations in a relaxed setting," Fayaz noted. Accompanied by his brother Nasir Khan who added, "I also ordered two kilograms of Chappli Kabab and three parcels of rice Polao for my son's birthday party at home." This weekend saw a surge of food lovers flocking to Namak Mandi, drawn like Fayaz and Nasir, a large number of food lovers visited Namak Mandi and others food streets of Peshawar on weekend where they enjoyed traditional cuisines due to its excellent taste and deliciousness. Arif Ahmad, a famous Chappli Kabab businessman

told APP that demands of Chappli Kabab have increased manifold during winter and autumn seasons. Besides enjoying appetizing traditional cuisines at hotels and open restaurants at night, he said most of Chappli Kabab lovers asked for parcels from two Kg to five Kg for parties at home. Inherited Chappli Kabab's business from my father, he said, "my father Jalil Ahmad took over it from his father, Jumma Khan in 1950. Following the death of my father, all his (Jalil Ahmad) six sons had carried forward the legacy of this hard-earned business and continued till date with a lot of hope to transfer it to the next generation." "My grandfather had started chappli kabab business from a single 'Karahi' 75 years ago and today with grace of Allah Almighty, we have six more shops including one at melody food street.—APP

Spacecademy Society offers interactive learning activities for students

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the World Space Week from October 4-10, the Spacecademy Society has planned an exciting series of interactive space science activities for students from different schools. Spacecademy Society will arrange various activities under the theme "Explore the Universe - A Journey to the Cosmos" in coordination with the Space Education and Awareness Drive of Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco). According to an official source, the program is aimed at engaging the students with hands-on learning experiences that explore the mysteries of the universe through telescope observations, virtual space journeys, and more. The organization has invited educators to engage their students in a series of hands-on, interactive activities designed to foster a deeper understanding of space science. The program will feature a variety of learning experiences, including telescope observations of celestial phenomena, both during the day and at night. Students will also have the chance to participate in expert-led sessions on celestial objects such as planets, stars, and black holes, delving into the mysteries of the universe. Another highlight of the initiative is a virtual space journey, where students can embark on a digital exploration of distant galaxies and planets, bringing the wonders of space directly into the classroom. The interactive science activities, including space-themed shows, experiments, and creative projects, will provide an engaging way for students to learn about the universe. Recognized as the largest annual space event on Earth, World Space Week presents a unique opportunity for students to expand their knowledge of astronomy and astrophysics. Spacecademy Society's tailored programs are designed to suit all age groups, ensuring that students of all levels can benefit from this educational experience. Spacecademy Society is encouraging schools to book their slots early, as availability is limited. This collaboration aims to inspire the next generation of space enthusiasts, providing a memorable educational experience that brings the cosmos into classrooms across the country.—DNA

Education should be central to national development strategy: Academicians and Education Experts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's development trajectory is directly linked to the potential of its youth and the innovation within its education system. To fully harness this transformative power, education must be positioned at the heart of the national development strategy. This approach, focused on reforms and empowerment, will allow Pakistan to cultivate future leaders, tackle emerging challenges, and assert itself as a global player. By embedding education into both national and international strategies, Pakistan can pave the way for a more sustainable and progressive future. This was observed by a gathering of prominent academicians and educationists at the annual meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The speakers included Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof Dr Anis Ahmad, vice chancellor, Riphah International University, Dr Asad Zaman, former vice chancellor Pakistan Institute

of Development Economics (PIDE), Prof Jalil Aali, poet and educationist, Prof Dr Anwar ul Hassan Gilani, consultant with HEC and former vice chancellor, University of Haripur, Mufti Abdul Rahim, head of Jamia-tur-Rasheed, Karachi, and chancellor Al Ghazali University, Prof Dr Abdul Razaq Sabir, vice chancellor, Gwadar University, Dr Syed Muhammad Junaid Zaidi, founder rector of COMSATS University, Islamabad, Dr Masood Mehmood Khan, senior lecturer, Curtin University, Australia, and Dr Noreen Saheer, associate professor/chairperson,

Department of Anthropology, IUI. The forum was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and moderated by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS. The discussion emphasized that the nation's progress is closely tied to an education system that is responsive to the challenges and opportunities of the modern age. The speakers underscored that universities and other educational institutions must undergo structural reforms to better equip youth with practical, forward-looking knowledge. This reform is crucial for positioning Pakistan to

meet future challenges and thrive in an evolving global landscape. The speakers expressed optimism about the current generation's increased awareness and commitment, asserting that with the right educational environment, the youth can become powerful agents of transformation. However, there is a need to critically assess why previous constructive efforts have had limited impact. To enable young people to act as catalysts for national development, the education system must provide them with platforms to develop their voices and contribute meaningfully to national discourse. This also involves the creation of democratic structures within political parties and the revival of platforms like student unions in a way that they serve as incubators for youth leadership and engagement. In this way, education can also play a key role in building strategic resilience against disinformation and fifth-generation warfare. The speakers highlighted the importance of a unified national strategy to counter these threats through educating youth about national strengths and adversaries' tactics.



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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

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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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



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CDA.....9208301-04
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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affaires of the Romanian embassy Eduard Preda, his wife, CEO Waqas Travels Waqas Ahmed and renowned dentist Dr. Abrar ul Hasnain posing for a picture on the launch of Sizzling Wok restaurant in the Kohsar Market.— DNA

3 cops dismissed involved in harassing woman from Chitral

SHO Sangjani jailed for unlawful detention of citizens without charges

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Dolphin and Patrolling of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Kazim Naqvi, has dismissed three officers from Bhara Kahu police station after they were found guilty of harassing a woman from Chitral and demanding a bribe. According to police reports, the three officers—Constables Asfand Ayaz, Nayyab, and Samiullah stopped a couple traveling by car on Shahdara Road. These police officers asked the couple to show a marriage certificate. When the couple was unable to produce their marriage

certificate, the officers allegedly demanded a bribe from them. One officer later took the woman into the police vehicle, separating her from her husband. Inside the van, a police officer was accused of touching her inappropriately and forcibly taking her mobile phone number. Afterwards, he continued to contact her, insisting on a meeting and kept threatening of serious consequences. The incident occurred on September 17, 2024. The female victim, "M," reported the incident to Islamabad's Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Syed Ali Raza, through a written complaint. She informed how one officer threatened her with dire conse-

quences should she pursue legal action. The officers allegedly continued harassment through phone calls and threatened her with physical harm. In response to the complaint, senior police officials initiated an inquiry, during which the three officers were implicated in the harassment and bribery. The victim provided evidence, including call recordings, corroborating her claims. The investigation confirmed that the officers violated both legal and ethical standards. Meanwhile, DIG Ali Raza assured that the Islamabad police are committed to upholding justice and will not tolerate any misconduct within the force.

He stated that strict legal action would be taken against those found guilty. Moreover, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested Station House Officer (SHO) Asim Ali Zaidi of Sangjani police station on Saturday for illegally detaining two citizens without filing any case against them. According to a police spokesperson, SHO Asim Zaidi had unlawfully detained two Kashmiri citizens, Shahbaz Sharif and Muhammad Saeed, at the Sangjani police station. He said that the SHO kept the individuals in custody for 19 days without filing any charges. According to the FIR (First Information Report), a case has

been registered against SHO Asim Zaidi under Section 342 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which pertains to wrongful confinement, and C-155 of the Police Order, following a report by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Tarnol Circle Ansar Ahmed. The police spokesperson emphasized that the ICT Police strictly adheres to a system of self-accountability. He said following his arrest, the SHO was presented in court, where the police requested his judicial remand. Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Azhar Nadeem approved the request and ordered that the accused SHO Asim Ali Zaidi be sent to jail on judicial remand, he added.

Board issuing disability certificate snail's pace causing problems to PWDs

ISLAMABAD: The Council on the Rights Persons with Disabilities responsible for issuing a disability certificate was working at a snail's pace causing problems to persons with disabilities (PWDs) special needs. Applicants alleged that District Social Welfare Department officials are reluctant to form a medical assessment board at the Mianwali District Headquarters Hospital to process 250 pending applications of certificates. They said that the board can declare an applicant disabled which is a prerequisite for both the issue of a disability certificate and a computerised national identity card (CNIC) holding a disability logo. When contacted the the Ministry of Human Rights, an official said that the ministry remains committed to enhancing the well-being and rights of persons with disabilities through such initiatives, promoting their integration and participation in society. He said that during the session, 64 special persons were thoroughly examined and disability certificates were issued. According to official, several service delivery departments, including NAVTTC, the Social Welfare Department, NIRM, DGSE, and SSMC Polyclinic have set up information desks at the event.—APP

Women and children facing exploitation in brickkilns work

ISLAMABAD: At least 20 thousand workers work at brickkilns and most of them are women and children facing exploitation which stirs the need for proper implementation of existing laws towards the most neglected sector, said Human Rights activist Ayub Malik here on Sunday. Talking to APP, In the world's poorest countries, slightly more than 1 in 5 children are engaged in child labour and 87,000 children of brickkilns workers had been enrolled in different government-sponsored schools for free education, while these workers were largely deprived of their legal rights and entitlements and forced to work in unhealthy and unsafe environments. The working conditions, he added their are no better than the workers' own living conditions. A majority of the workers at the brick kilns were working due to poverty while most of them have been sent by their families, he added.—APP

Global media delegation explores Xi'an's cultural legacy, marvels at Terracotta Warriors

ISLAMABAD: A delegation comprising representatives from leading global media organizations, including Pakistan, recently visited Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province in northwest China and highlighted its rich cultural heritage, including the renowned Terracotta Warriors, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Naveed Husain, Editor-in-Chief of The Express Tribune, expressed

admiration for the Terracotta Warriors, referring to them as 'a wonder of the world' and 'a fitting tribute to the heroes of ancient China'. He said, "The Terracotta Army stands as a testament to the multi-civilizational exchanges throughout human history." The Terracotta Warriors were first unearthed in 1974 by an archaeological team excavating Pit No. 1 of Emperor Qin Shi Huang's

mausoleum, China's first emperor from the Qin Dynasty. The excavation uncovered a vast underground army of life-sized warriors, crafted to accompany the emperor in the afterlife. During the visit, Naveed told China Economic Net that Chinese archaeologists had applied their expertise across Central, West, and South Asia in recent years, helping protect ancient cultural sites. "This

is my first visit to Xi'an, and China's cultural confidence is evident here," he remarked adding, "China and Pakistan are collaborating in many areas, and archaeological discoveries could be a new area of cooperation where Pakistan can benefit from Chinese expertise." The delegation also toured an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the discovery.—APP

Railways cuts fares across board: CEO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways' CEO Amir Ali Baloch Sunday announced exciting plans to enhance the travel experience for passengers where the government is taking significant steps to make Pakistan Railways a more attractive option for travelers by decreasing fares and introducing state-of-the-art air-conditioned trains for affordability to commuters. Talking to PTV news channel, the CEO has unveiled an ambitious plan to transform Pakistan Railways into a world-class transportation system, reviving Pakistan's rail network. He said Pakistan Railways has announced a 10% reduction in fares for all passenger trains, including air-conditioned and economy classes. The fare cut will be effective from 23 September and applies to both express and mail trains, he mentioned.—APP

CDA launches Technology & Digitalization Wing block

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA), under the directives of its Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, has taken a significant step towards modernization by officially launching its Technology and Digitalization Wing block. This milestone marks a new era in the Authority's operations as it transitions to a corporate model and collaborative working culture, aiming to streamline services and enhance efficiency, said a press release. On the occasion of the launch, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said the future of public service delivery lies in embracing modern technology and adopting corporate best practices. As part of this initiative, the newly established Technology and Digitalization Wing block, has been made operational. This block is equipped with state-of-the-art hardware and software to enhance efficiency. A corporate-style work environment has been introduced, featuring open desks work environment and an open-door policy to enhance efficiency and transparency. The implementation of this modern technology is part of a broader initiative aimed at increasing transparency in office operations and improving overall performance.—APP



آج سہری تاریخ

30 ستمبر

ناقابل توسیع

انکم ٹیکس گوشوارے جمع کرائیں

فائل ربنیں

• وہ افراد جن کی سالانہ آمدنی 6 لاکھ سے زائد ہو

• میٹروپولیٹن کنٹونمنٹ اور وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کی حدود میں 250 مربع گز پر پرائیویٹ مالکان

• ریٹنگ ایئر یا اس 500 مربع گز یا اس سے زائد یا 200 مربع گز کوڑا پرائیویٹ کے مالکان

• 1000 سے زیادہ یا اس سے زائد گاڑی کے مالکان

• سالانہ 5 لاکھ سے زائد بجلی بل ادا کرنے والے

ایک ٹیکس پیئر کی مراعات

- ایک ٹیکس پیئر اسٹیمپ ڈیوٹی
- دو ہولڈنگ ٹیکس کی شرح تقریباً نصف
- دیواریات، متعدد خدمات اور دیگر ٹیکس دین
- پرک ٹیکس شرح
- گاڑیوں کی رجسٹریشن ڈون ٹیکس کم

ایک ٹیکس پیئر کی مراعات

- آئی این ٹیکس کی سہولت
- آئی این ٹیکس کی سہولت
- آئی این ٹیکس کی سہولت
- آئی این ٹیکس کی سہولت
- آئی این ٹیکس کی سہولت

فائل ربنیں انتہائی آسان



ہر قسم پر رہنمائی



ٹیکس آسان موبائل ایپ



آسان اور سادہ گوشوارے



آئی این ٹیکس کی سہولت

ایف بی آر ہیر ٹیکس گز اراکام مددگار

ایف بی آر ہیر ٹیکس گز اراکام مددگار

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Briefs

APNS
expresses
grief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of Mr. Usman Arab Saati senior editor and publisher of Daily Vatan Gujrati Karachi. Ms Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani President and Mr Sarmad Ali Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society in a joint statement have expressed their condolences to the bereaved family and colleagues of Mr Usman Saati and prayed that Almighty Allah may rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give courage to the family bear the great loss.

Women and
children facing
exploitation in
brick kilns work

ISLAMABAD: At least 20 thousand workers work at brick kilns and most of them are women and children facing exploitation which stirs the need for proper implementation of existing laws towards the most neglected sector, said Human Rights activist Ayub Malik here on Sunday. Talking to APP, in the world's poorest countries, slightly more than 1 in 5 children are engaged in child labour and 87,000 children of brick kilns workers had been enrolled in different government-sponsored schools for free education, while these workers were largely deprived of their legal rights and entitlements and forced to work in unhealthy and unsafe environments. The working conditions, he added, are no better than the workers' own living conditions. A majority of the workers at the brick kilns were working due to poverty while most of them have been sent by their families, he added.

He said that there should be a regulatory body to resolve the issues of these workers whereas a limited number of these workers had written contracts and the rest had a verbal understanding of their work, he added. Remuneration is fixed based on the number of bricks made or carried. On average, workers have to work for 11-13 hours so that they file petitions on the rights of brick kiln workers in this regard," he lamented. He said that due to improper taxing nature, the financial advances and loans taken by the workers bind them to work which should be ended, he demanded. The primary analysis focuses on identifying the prevailing child labour issue at the district level. The above graph shows the number of children below the age of fourteen working at brick kilns for each district, along with their educational standing. According to this, we can see that the 'Faisalabad' district has the highest number of children employed below the age of 14. Vehari and Multan also have similar high child labour rates. Lastly, Narowal's district has the lowest number of children employed in this age bracket, which constitutes only 0.41% of the total children employed, he added.

Iraq envoy Lafta meets PRCS chief
Call for strengthening
Iraq, Pakistan bilateral ties

Ambassador Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta expresses his pleasure at visiting PRCS, commending the organization's efforts under Chairman Laghari's leadership; reiterates Iraq's commitment to supporting humanitarian causes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan, visited the National Headquarters of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Friday, where he met with PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari. The two leaders engaged in discussions centered around strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and Iraq, with a special focus on humanitarian collaboration and exploring potential joint initiatives to assist vulnerable communities in both nations. Chairman Laghari provided an overview of PRCS's wide-ranging humanitarian efforts across Pakistan, notably emphasizing the support extended to millions impacted by the devastating monsoon floods of 2022. He highlighted the organization's ongoing recovery initiatives, including providing shelter, li-



lihood support, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services, and cash assistance for flood-affected families. Ambassador Lafta expressed his delight in visiting PRCS and praised the

organization's impactful work under the leadership of Chairman Laghari, especially during natural disasters and crises. He reiterated Iraq's strong commitment to humanitarian causes and expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the provision of essential medicines and vaccines. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration between the PRCS and the Iraq Red Crescent Society, expressing his commitment to facilitating future exchange visits between the two National Societies. He also suggested the possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to formalize cooperation on various humanitarian projects. During his visit, Ambassador Lafta toured the PRCS library and left a message in the guest book. As a gesture of goodwill, Chairman Laghari presented him with souvenirs and his book, Dastan-e-Azam.

Chinese company to invest 5b
dollar to boost Pak textile exports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's RUYI Group has planned to invest Dollar 5 billion to boost Pakistan's textile exports, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The company's senior management team visited here the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and announced their plan for the investors and to establish two export-oriented Green (Zero Emission) textile cities in Lahore and Karachi. According to Jamil Qureshi, Secretary of SIFC, the group will collaborate with 25 leading companies from the China Textile Council and China Garments Association. With an anticipated investment of around USD 5 billion, the

project is expected to generate significant annual value and boost Pakistan's textile exports by up to USD 10 billion. Earlier, a nine-member delegation from RUYI Group, led by Chairman Qiu Yafu, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. The group plans to establish international standard textile parks in Pakistan, aiming to increase the country's textile exports and position Pakistan as a global textile and garment hub. These textile parks are projected to create employment opportunities for 300,000 to 500,000 locals. The prime minister praised the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, noting that their economic ties

grow stronger each day. He welcomed the Chinese textile group to Pakistan, commending their investment in the country's textile sector. He also highlighted that this firm was the first investor in the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, a project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting also decided to form working groups in Islamabad and Beijing to address issues between Pakistan and the Chinese enterprises. The Chinese textile group is a large-scale Sino-foreign joint venture enterprise with diversified shareholders. It boasts the largest woollen garment and cotton dyeing industry chain in China and consistently contributes to the

textile industry through its advanced technology. Currently, the group's brand matrix includes more than 6,000 stores worldwide, operating in 84 countries and regions, making it the most influential Chinese enterprise in the global fashion field. According to the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan's textile and apparel exports rose by 0.93 percent to USD16.655 billion during the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24 July-June), marking a small gain from USD 16.501 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. The textile sector had earlier faced economic challenges but showed improvement in the later months.

'Performance
of export sector
disappointing'

FAISAL SHEKIH

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the performance of the export sector is disappointing. Exporters take many benefits from the government, but their performance remains deplorable due to too much focus on profits, he said. The whole focus of the export sector is on profit and packages, while there is no interest in increasing production and quality, competitiveness, innovation, or research and de-

velopment, he added. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement today that Pakistan's cotton production falls short of demand, costing the country billions of dollars in annual import losses. On the other hand, he said, the world is reducing cotton production to provide food for the expanding population. He noted that Pakistan's powerful import lobby has been influencing important policies in its favor for decades, which has shaken the foundations of the economy. On the other hand, the export lobby is addicted to bailout packages, tax breaks, and devaluation of the rupee, which affects 250 million people.

Private sector imperative for creating jobs

ISLAMABAD: The private sector is crucial to create jobs and improve the livelihoods of women folk across the country, said Rabia Amin, a social worker on Friday. She said private sector and civil society organizations should strengthen business sustainability and women's empowerment to ensure their active participation by creating job opportunities. "As a way of strengthening confidence, personal and professional skill building can provide opportunities to women", she said. She said that by learning new skills, women can build their self-confidence, increase their economic power, independence and make better informed decisions. She said that women's empowerment was important for the progress of a country or a nation. "Frequent training and awareness programmes can be arranged to make women aware of their rights and to equip them for exercising just demands," she added. She said that adequate implementation of laws was crucial to provide a secure environment for women.—APP

Pakistan's earns \$286m
from IT services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$286.395 million by exporting different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first month of the current fiscal year 2024-25. This shows a growth of 33.84 per cent as compared with the US \$ 213.980 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the month under review, the computer services grew by 44.14 per cent as it surged from US \$172.680 million last year to US \$248.899 million during July 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 47.38 per cent, from US \$58.425 million to US \$86.103 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services, however, decreased by 30.68 per cent, from US \$0.440 million to US \$0.350 million. The export of repair and maintenance services surged by 1302.14 per cent from US \$0.035 million to US \$0.490.75 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services also increased by 1.08 per cent, from \$50.327 million to \$50.868 million. In addition, the exports of other computer services also witnessed a growth of 75.14 per cent from US \$63.453 million to US \$111.131 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the month under review also increased by 47.50 per cent growing from US \$0.300 million to US \$0.442 million. Among the information services, the exports of information-related services up by 12.34 per cent, from US \$0.114 million to US \$0.128 million whereas the exports of other information services rose by 69.05 per cent, from US \$0.186 million to US \$0.314 million. The export of telecommunication services decreased by 9.62 per cent as these came down from US \$41 million to US \$37.053 million, the data revealed. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 33.61 per cent during the month as its exports increased from US \$15.993 million to US \$21.367 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services decreased by 37.27 per cent, from US \$25.007 million to US \$15.686 million during this year, the PBS data revealed.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: First Assistant Secretary, South and Central Asia Division at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms. Sarah Storey, who is on a three day visit to Pakistan, today called on Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui. She was accompanied by the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan. The two sides sides exchanged views on bilateral and regional and global issues.—DNA

Inquiry into allegations of corruption in
the Punjab Wildlife Dept. demanded

In addition to the concerns about substandard work, there have been serious allegations of corruption and malpractice within the Punjab Wildlife Department. These allegations range from mismanagement of funds to improper allocation of resources, and they have been compounded by the department's lack of transparency and accountability

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



The Punjab Wildlife Department has a broad mandate that includes wildlife conservation, habitat protection, and the management of natural parks, zoos, and biodiversity centers. It is also tasked with enforcing wildlife protection laws,

regulating hunting, and managing the breeding and rehabilitation of endangered species. The department's collaboration with other governmental bodies, such as the Department of Communication and Works Punjab and the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation, is critical for the success of these projects. Collaboration seems to have been fraught with challenges, including inefficiencies and questionable practices, leading to widespread dissatisfaction with the outcomes of the department's work. The UGPP is part of a national effort to enhance Pakistan's green cover, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and preserve biodiversity. It includes a variety of projects such as tree planting, the establishment of protected areas, and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. The ADP, on the other hand, is an initiative aimed at the long-term development of infrastructure and services in the

province, including the development of zoos, biodiversity parks, and wildlife habitats. The Department of Monitoring and Evaluation has expressed serious concerns regarding the quality of the wildlife department's development work. In Lahore, Sargodha, Dera Ghazi Khan, Lal Suhanra, Jallo Park, and Taunsa, where new zoos and biodiversity parks have been built, evaluations by the government agency have pointed out significant shortcomings. These projects, which should have served as cornerstones of biodiversity conservation and environmental education, have fallen short of expectations, both in terms of construction standards and the ecological outcomes they were meant to achieve. In addition to the concerns about substandard work, there have been serious allegations of corruption and malpractice within the Punjab Wildlife Department. These allegations range from mismanagement of funds to

improper allocation of resources, and they have been compounded by the department's lack of transparency and accountability. Complaints have emerged that funds earmarked for vital conservation efforts, such as the protection of migratory birds or the support of local communities living near wildlife reserves, have not been used effectively or honestly. There are also reports of wildlife officers inflating the number of field visits they record in order to collect higher allowances. These field visits, which are crucial for monitoring illegal poaching, checking the progress of wildlife conservation projects, and ensuring compliance with regulations, are being underperformed in reality, while more visits are reported on paper. This not only undermines the department's ability to carry out its mandate but also contributes to the growing problem of illegal poaching and habi-

tat destruction in the province. The department's apparent inaction regarding these allegations is particularly concerning. Instead, it seems that the department has engaged in a pattern of covering up allegations rather than addressing them. Even from the highest offices, including the Chief Minister's Office and the Minister of Forests, Wildlife, and Fisheries, there has been little to no effort to conduct transparent inquiries into the department's conduct. This has eroded public trust in the department and its ability to protect Punjab's natural heritage. Construction of zoos and biodiversity parks that do not meet the required safety and quality standards. The resulting infrastructure may be dangerous for both the animals housed within them and the visitors who come to see them. The failure to adhere to proper construction standards can lead to

environmental degradation, undermining the very goals of the UGPP and ADP. For instance, poorly constructed enclosures may allow animals to escape, or inadequate drainage systems may cause flooding and other environmental issues in sensitive habitats. Given the serious nature of the allegations against the Punjab Wildlife Department, it is clear that immediate action is needed. There have been widespread calls for the Chief Minister of Punjab to initiate a high-level inquiry into the department's performance, particularly with regard to the UGPP, ADP, and other wildlife conservation initiatives. Such an inquiry would provide the transparency and accountability that have been sorely lacking in the department's operations. The inquiry should focus on several key areas. First, it should investigate the department's handling of funds and resources, includ-

ing the allegations of corruption and mismanagement. Second, it should examine the quality of the department's development projects, particularly the involvement of civil engineers and other technical experts in ensuring that these projects meet safety and quality standards. Inquiry should assess the department's effectiveness in carrying out its core responsibilities, such as protecting endangered species, preventing illegal hunting, and engaging with local communities. If the inquiry finds evidence of wrongdoing, those responsible must be held accountable under the law. This would send a clear message that corruption and negligence will not be tolerated in the management of Punjab's Wildlife. It would also help to restore public confidence in the department and ensure that future conservation efforts are carried out with integrity and professionalism.

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Sabra and Shatila Massacre

THE 42nd anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre of 1982 is a glaring reminder of "Israel's" historical ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and Lebanese. Back then, the Zionist regime invaded Lebanon and massacred Palestinians and Muslims in the capital city Beirut. The brutality and scale of the massacre classify it as a genocide and remain etched in the Palestinian collective consciousness as they continue to endure daily bombardments, extrajudicial killings, and violence by the very same Zionist entity. Examined closely, there exist parallels between the 1982 genocide in Sabra and Shatila and "Israel's" relentless attacks against Hezbollah in Lebanon which is concomitant with its killing sprees in Gaza. These parallels are exactly why the Sabra and Shatila massacre by "Israel" should never be forgotten. "Israel's" creation in 1948 and its subsequent occupation of Palestinian territories resulted in a massive exodus of Palestinians migrating and seeking refuge in Lebanon. However, ethnic and religious tensions were brewing in Lebanon in 1975, partly due to the country's unique demographic composition, which consists of Christians, Druze, Shia, and Sunni Muslims. Moreover, the country's parliamentary structure favored Lebanese Christians at the expense of other religious groups, which resulted in the widening of religious cleavages after 1975, the year Lebanon plunged into a Civil War, which further worsened as different foreign powers got involved in the conflict that lasted for approximately 15 years. It is within this context that "Israel" decided to pursue its opportunistic and expansionist agendas. This included foreign interference, aggression against an ethnic population on foreign territory, and brazen meddling in Lebanon's internal affairs. After attacking and massacring PLO freedom fighters in Lebanon throughout the 1970s, "Israel" cited the attempted assassination of its ambassador to the United Kingdom, Shlomo Argov, as a pretext to invade Lebanon and attack PLO freedom fighters. However, Israeli historians, including those advocating for the genocide of Palestinians such as Benny Morris, contested such claims and stated that the attempted assassination of Argov was by Abu Nidal, a defector from Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction within the PLO who had previously killed many PLO members. Yet, despite the lack of evidence and subsequent PLO condemnation of the assassination attempt, "Israel" invaded Lebanon in 1982 and was supported by rogue Lebanese politicians such as Bachir Pierre Gemayel who headed the Lebanese Forces, a Christian right-wing militia fighting against Lebanese Muslims during the civil war. Gemayel was eventually assassinated by fellow Maronite Christian, Habib Shartouni, a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. His assassination, however, prompted then-Zionist Security Minister, Ariel Sharon, to call for the Israeli occupation of West Beirut in violation of "Israel's" previous agreement with the United States to not occupy the capital of Lebanon. With anger brimming over the assassination of the Kataeb's Gemayel, Ariel Sharon fomented negative sentiments and leveraged Christian anger by calling for the invasion of Sabra and Shatila by propagating a fallacy that the PLO was responsible for Gemayel's death.



China's clean tech glut

WITH senior American officials meeting their Chinese counterparts last week to discuss the effects of China's manufacturing "overcapacity" on the US economy, it is worth pausing to consider both the significant benefits and concerns over Beijing's massive and unprecedented expansion of clean energy technology. China's leadership across all facets of decarbonisation, including research and development, investment, manufacturing and deployment, has delivered exceptional economic outcomes at home. According to analysis published by the Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, 40 per cent of China's gross domestic product growth was driven by the clean energy industry in 2023, underpinning its continued economic development domestically as the property construction sector slows. This has global repercussions. For example, in the solar manufacturing supply chain, China accounts for 93 per cent of the global polysilicon production capacity, a key input for solar panels. Its dramatic scaling-up of production to globally dominant levels has drastically reduced polysilicon prices. Other nations are struggling to compete. While prices for polysilicon produced outside China have remained high – at around US\$21 per kg – with in China, this has fallen to US\$4-US\$5 per kg. Even with the domestic deployment of 123GW of new solar capacity nationwide during the first seven months of this year, China cannot absorb its current levels of production. Its resulting clean tech glut has driven continued export growth on top of astonishing price deflation of Chinese components. This is where the contention with the US lies. The latter accuses China of flooding markets with heavily subsidised products, damaging American jobs and industrial production. However, viewing China's overcapacity merely as a threat overlooks the massive potential it brings for an accelerated roll-out of clean energy in a world that must rapidly decarbonise to tackle the existential problem of climate change. The International Energy Agency reports that, thanks to the scaling up of China's manufacturing, 96 per cent of utility-scale solar and onshore wind installed in 2022 cost less than new coal and gas plants. This is crucial to enable less-developed economies struggling to decarbonise, including those in the Global South, to secure their energy independence, especially as global electrification is expected to increase electricity demand in the coming decades. Countries like Pakistan have benefited significantly from China's solar capacity. During the first half of 2024, it imported 13GW of solar modules from China, making it the third-largest export destination for Chinese solar. It is estimated that Pakistan will add 10GW-15GW of solar capacity this year on top of the existing 50GW capacity of its power system. In markets like Pakistan, in other words, China's overcapacity translates into tangible gains, allowing countries with limited resources to walk among rich nations amid the global energy transition. The question arises: is this truly an issue of overcapacity, or of underdeployment – a massive global opportunity to drive energy security, deflation and decarbonisation by rolling out clean technology systems across the globe, at a speed and scale commensurate with that of the climate crisis?

Addis Ababa's Green Legacy Initiative: A journey from deforestation to reforestation

Amb. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula



The recent records of planting seedlings showed the government's high commitment to achieving the defined Tree Planting Targets, which are mentioned in detail on the official online sources of GLI. The GLI's implementation through massive public participation so far has planted 40.5 Billion seedlings in between 2019 to 2024 of which 56 percent is fruits and 44 percent are various trees suitable to local ecology based on research undertakings

THE contemporary climate change and environmental degradation debates cannot be divorced from Ethiopia's recently launched Green Legacy Initiative (GLI). It is a landmark development in the country's history and its historical environment-protecting mission, spearheaded by the current Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed. The primary mission of GLI, introduced by Prime Minister Ahmed in 2019, is to plant seedlings through a broader social campaign that would let its government ensure social prosperity, economic development, environmental and biodiversity restoration. The seedling planting campaign focuses on the urban and rural areas simultaneously by introducing multifaceted green initiatives with appropriate research and development support. This countrywide green campaign concentrates on the country's social and ecological goals, strongly connected with the greater theme of a greener, sustainable and cleaner Ethiopia. While realizing the severe threats of increasing droughts in the country and their impacts on the lives of more than 120 million people, Prime Minister Ahmed tried to raise public awareness about the overwhelming wave of prevailing non-traditional security threats in the Ethiopian nation where the government has marked the environment degradation as a serious challenge. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has led the entire nation to understand the significance of green social attitude and behavior support and promote the social practices of planting and protecting trees. It positively contributes to Addis Ababa's greater mission of encouraging sustainable environmental and social practices in the country to overcome the emerging security threats of the non-traditional nature. The GLI represents the Ethiopian government's determination to uphold the notion of creating an environment-friendly and environment-protecting green culture, enabling its government to mitigate the emerging challenges of climate change and global warming. Addis Ababa-based government officials under the leadership of Abiy Ahmed determined to plant billions of trees across the country to reduce the existing levels of carbon dioxide in the air, parallel to decreasing the environment-degrading effects of greenhouse gasses and developed Long Term Low Carbon Emission Strategy by 2030 net zero carbon emission. The extensive public support for the Prime Minister's green vision is linked with improving present levels of soil health and water conservation and regulating the country's vulnerability to extreme weather conditions through enhancing the environment-resilient social capacities of the nation. The motto "A Nation that Plants; A Generation that Sustain" fundamentally mobilized around 39 million general public to join the government's mission due to Prime Minister's announcement of calling 2024 as

the year of Green Legacy Initiative that break its previously held world record planted 615.7 million within a day. Thus, Addis Ababa's green mission has made Ethiopia a popular environment-friendly nation in the world, according to various credible reports. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has formally recognized the environment-protecting struggle of Addis Ababa by recalling the country's history of becoming an active part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) IN 1994. Several other intergovernmental frameworks of the international community, such as the African Union and World Bank, have appreciated the country's climate-safeguarding quest. The Guinness World Records list has also registered the Ethiopian tree-planting records and made Ethiopia as one of the leading nations in international reforestation struggles. The recent records of planting seedlings showed the government's high commitment to achieving the defined Tree Planting Targets, which are mentioned in detail on the official online sources of GLI. The GLI's implementation through massive public participation so far has planted 40.5 Billion seedlings in between 2019 to 2024 of which 56 percent is fruits and 44 percent are various trees suitable to local ecology based on research undertakings. These figures show the persistent efforts of state-society collaboration, which facilitated the current Ethiopian government to achieve its desired climate-specific national targets within a defined timeframe. Public support has been considered internationally as the factor enabling Dr. Abiy Ahmed's government to achieve high targets for the plantation. In other words, public support is the outcome of Addis Ababa's comprehensive history of advocating global environmental efforts, which could be measured on certain lines like the launching of the National Adaptation Plan of Action in 2007, the Program of Adaptation on Climate Change and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action in 2010 and endorsing the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) in 2011. Ethiopia is the first country that adopted a policy to ban fossil car import and incentives the green transition. It is pertinent to mention the positive impact of the country's evolving green culture on the Ethiopian national economy, which has produced around one million jobs and 130,000 nurseries across the country. On similar note, Ethiopia has achieved food self-sufficiency and ensured food security and start to export avocado, papaya mango, banana etc to Europe, Middle East and Asia. In light of this perspective, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of United Nations awarded the prestigious medal Agricola to H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed for his role and leadership in ensuring food self-sufficiency, poverty alleviation, sustainable development. This progress validates

Addis Ababa's strengths for meeting global pledges agreed upon at various international forums, such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Sustainable Development Agenda of 2030, and the African Regional Agenda of 2063. In this way, the Ethiopian campaign of planting massive trees contributes positively to countering the emerging wave of environment-centric global security problems. The global voices for combating the threats of climate change have formally appreciated and acknowledged the Ethiopian role in promoting environmental protection and social practices in the African region. While considering the appreciable efforts of Addis Ababa to restore the degraded landscapes, the Ethiopian government identified the areas needing reforesting under an enhanced natural environment. So, the multidimensional benefits of Ethiopia's GLI campaign inflicted a sense of supporting ecosystems and ecological diversity in the African region, and it has become a symbol of a green nation in the region by introducing diverse agroforestry social practices. Moreover, these Ethiopian practices have become exemplary models in the region for other governments while helping other nations to follow the state-led broader environment plans of Addis Ababa under Fraternity Planting Programme across Africa. The multileveled phases of planting massive seedlings in different cities and villages proved that the African nations could effectively address the alarming levels of deforestation and soil erosion through the government's properly structured social awareness campaigns. Therefore, it could be treated as a blueprint for different African nations witnessing analogous issues of land degradation, agricultural administration, and effective greenland management. The Ethiopian reforestation efforts also led other African nations to start positively engaging different segments of their societies in various productive activities, which could ultimately produce the chance of enhanced community engagement and social mobilization under various political administrations. The participation of millions of residents in the large-scale tree-planting activities allowed people of different age groups and diverse ethnic backgrounds to show Ethiopian exertions for developing a sense of responsibility and collectiveness in society. In this way, it delivered a message of togetherness to other nations concerning the collective role of the public in supporting the major government policies and developmental initiatives, and the other African nations could find it an interesting case for strengthening the cooperative state-society connections under their respective political systems. On similar note, the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of the Government of Pakistan introduced Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Planting under Green Legacy Initiative programme throughout the major cities of Pakistan to counter the unfolding the climate danger.

Parliament's reckless amendments

Qamar Bashir



Governments knew very well that Laws enacted through thorough consultation, debate, and stakeholder engagement tend to be more effective and beneficial in the long term. For example, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the US and the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)...

WHEN Parliament passed the Supreme Court Procedure and Practices Act 2023, analysts, including myself, predicted that the government, if it came to power in a subsequent term, would soon realize the shortsightedness of this move, as it was enacted mainly to curtail the powers of the then-outgoing Chief Justice, Atta Bandial. This act, which was quickly passed by Parliament and endorsed by the President without thorough deliberation, lacked the collective wisdom and broad consultation that are essential for any successful legislation.

The main provision of the newly amended Supreme Court Procedure and Practices (SCPP) Act 2024 is to empower the Chief Justice to select the third member of his choice for the three-member committee responsible for determining the composition of Supreme Court benches. This role is of paramount importance, as it greatly influences the direction any given case will take. While the current Chief Justice, whom the government believes it has empowered through this amendment, will soon complete his tenure, the next Chief Justice—who is largely perceived as being less favorable to the government—is expected to assume this power. This upcoming Chief Justice is likely to hold office for several years and could leverage this authority to challenge the vested interests of the government, potentially creating significant challenges for them in the future. Parliament has passed other laws similarly, often drafted hastily and merely rubber-stamped, only for their flaws to become evident, requiring them to be reversed later. A notable example is the decision to replace retired judges with serving judges in the Election Tribunal. The ruling elite eventually recognized the mistake in this amendment and reverted to the original practice of appointing retired judges as presiding officers, highlighting the importance of foresight and careful legislative deliberation. Governments knew very well that Laws enacted through thorough consultation, debate, and stakeholder engagement tend to be more effective and beneficial in the long term. For example, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the US and the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) in the UK underwent extensive deliberations, ensuring they addressed the complexities of societal issues, resulting in enduring positive impacts. Engaging stakeholders and following established procedures enable laws to consider diverse perspectives and prevent unintended consequences. In contrast, laws passed hastily without due process often face resistance, reversals, and negative outcomes. The Farm Laws in India (2020), enacted without adequate consultation, triggered widespread protests and were eventually repealed. Similarly, the Prohibition laws in the US (1920-1933), passed without understanding societal implications, led to organized crime and corruption, demonstrating the pitfalls of bypassing rigorous scrutiny. Ultimately, enacting laws through a set procedure ensures public trust, legitimacy, and adaptability. Comprehensive processes, like those behind the Social Security Act (1935) and the Affordable Care Act (2010) in the US, have

led to long-lasting, impactful legislation that remains relevant and resilient, proving that deliberate, inclusive law-making yields more successful outcomes. Contrary to the established principle that enacting or amending laws requires thorough scrutiny to ensure they provide long-term benefits to the general public, the government appears to be enacting laws and amending existing ones hastily, primarily in an attempt to maintain its hold on power. In doing so, they are deviating from established practices and legal norms, particularly the principle that laws should not be applied retrospectively. For instance, the retrospective amendments to the Election Act 2023 in Pakistan seem intended to alter the outcomes of elections conducted under that law, potentially undermining democratic principles and the legitimacy of the electoral process. Previously, election tribunals were required to resolve disputes within a stipulated six-month period. However, recent amendments introduced flexibility, allowing tribunals to seek extensions if cases were complicated or required more time. The recent amendment to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2024, signed by President Asif Ali Zardari, expands the Chief Justice of Pakistan's power to select a judge for the committee overseeing the Supreme Court's affairs, giving the Chief Justice more control over case assignments. The amendment also mandates that all hearings be recorded, with transcripts made publicly available. Additionally, a sub-clause limiting the right of appeal was removed. These amendments, initially seen as advantageous for the government, may soon backfire and cause more harm to the ruling party than to any other institution. The government is likely to confront the Supreme Court over its larger bench verdict, which restored the PTI as a political party and allowed independent candidates to join it. The live hearings and the availability of transcripts to the public are expected to attract significant media attention, potentially exposing inconsistencies in the government's stance and strengthening the position of opposition parties, particularly the PTI. Moreover, the removal of limitations on the right to appeal may end up benefiting the PTI more than the government itself. In established democracies like the United Kingdom, United States, and Germany, there is a strong emphasis on the principle of legal certainty, which ensures that laws remain consistent and predictable, especially in matters like elections. Once elections are held under a specific law, subsequent processes—such as seat allocation, party status determination, and legal challenges—typically follow the legal framework in place at the

time of the election. This principle ensures fairness, transparency, and respect for the democratic process. For example, in the US presidential elections, the Electoral College process and state laws governing elections remain fixed and unaltered throughout the election cycle. Any changes to election laws or procedures are implemented prospectively, not retrospectively, to avoid influencing the outcome of elections that have already taken place. In the case of Pakistan, the government's retrospective amendments to the Election Act 2023 appear to be an attempt to influence election outcomes and subsequent legal and procedural matters. Such amendments, especially if enacted with the intention of impacting ongoing court cases or the allocation of seats, violate the principles of legal certainty and rule of law. They create a sense of instability and undermine public trust in democratic processes. Comparatively, established democracies typically avoid retrospective legislation that directly affects election outcomes. For instance, in the UK, the Representation of the People Act (which governs elections) undergoes amendments, but these are always applied to future elections. This ensures that the rules remain consistent throughout an electoral cycle, preventing any manipulation of election results post-facto. Retrospective changes to election laws, as seen in Pakistan, can be perceived as attempts to manipulate the political landscape for short-term gains. Such practices can have long-term detrimental effects on democratic institutions, as they create an environment where electoral outcomes can be influenced by those in power, rather than reflecting the will of the people. In established democracies, any attempt to alter election laws retroactively would likely face strong resistance from the judiciary, civil society, and opposition parties, as it would be seen as undermining democratic principles. The use of retrospective amendments to influence election outcomes and related processes, as observed in Pakistan, contrasts sharply with established democratic practices that prioritize legal certainty, fairness, and respect for the democratic process. To maintain the integrity of elections and democratic governance, it is crucial that any amendments to election laws be applied prospectively, ensuring that the rules in place at the time of the election remain the guiding framework for all subsequent actions.

— Former Press Secretary to the President
Former Press Minister to the
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV

Briefs

Diplomats safe as IED hits the...

FROM PAGE 01
the suburban area of Sherabad. The police confirmed that the foreign ambassadors in the convoy included representatives from Russia, Portugal, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, and other countries. "All the ambassadors remained safe in the attack and had been shifted to a safe place before their departure to Islamabad," Deputy Inspector General of police Mohammad Ali Gandapur told media. In his message of condemnation, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the blast near a police van in the Malm Jabba, Swat.

President, PM condemn terror ...

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the entire nation salutes the sacrifices of the police force in the fight against terrorism. He said such cowardly acts cannot shake our resolve to completely eradicate terrorism. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister also strongly condemned the shooting of Anti-Terrorism Force personnel in Zhob. In a statement today, he prayed for higher status in heaven for the martyred personnel and expressed his condolences to their families.

Govt consents...

FROM PAGE 01
will cutdown superfluous taxes, as the FBR has submitted its recommendations," according to sources. "It has been decided that the power tariffs of industrial consumers will be reduced." "The talks between the Ministry of Energy and the IPPs over the issue, have amicably been entered in its final phase," sources added.

JUI's...

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cannot be resolved through force and urged that serious demands in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan should be addressed. He further pointed out that ordinances hold no significant value in the constitution and can only be used temporarily. Moreover, he accused the government of being beholden to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), stating that continuous lies are being told regarding the reduction of inflation. He stressed the necessity for all stakeholders to come together to improve the country's economy.

Hafiz...

FROM PAGE 01
the Expo Centre in Karachi on Sunday, Rehman stressed the need to foster hope and awareness among the younger generation. He cited the Palestinian people as an example of resilience, asserting that they remain steadfast in their pursuit of rights while remaining content with God's will. He urged the youth not to lose hope but to draw inspiration from such examples.

UK trade...

FROM PAGE 01
the region. British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi Sarah Mooney said: "As Pakistan's third-largest trade partner, the UK is committed to driving economic development and addressing challenges that hold back growth. This visit reinforces our commitment to working together to unlock opportunities to benefit both countries."

Dr. Zakir...

FROM PAGE 01
This choice of venue highlighted the importance of the event and its connection to Pakistan's heritage. The news of Dr. Naik's visit has been met with enthusiasm on social media, with many followers expressing their joy and eagerness to attend the lectures. Dr. Naik, who currently resides in Malaysia, had previously expressed his desire to visit Pakistan in a podcast, revealing that he had planned a trip in 2020 but was thwarted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australian high commissioner Hawkins donates hockey sticks to female players



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The players of the Rising Stars Hockey Club and Rising Stars Girls Hockey Academy are indebted to the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins for donating hockey

sticks to the talented players of the Rising Stars Girls Hockey Academy Islamabad. This selfless act of kindness embodies the true spirit of sports diplomacy and demonstrates his unwavering commitment to empowering young Pakistani athletes. By providing these talented girls with world-class

equipment, Hawkins has not only boosted their morale but also paved the way for them to showcase their skills on the international stage. His visionary leadership and philanthropic efforts will have a lasting impact on the development of hockey in Pakistan, inspiring a new generation of players to strive for excellence.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Excellency Hawkins for his generosity, dedication, and belief in the potential of Pakistani youth. On this occasion Excellency Col(R) Kamal High Commissioner of Brunei, Mr Ansar bhatti, Mr Mehmood Ahmed, Mr Asif Bhatti and Sohail Akram Janjua were also present.

Panthers move up in points table after defeating Stallions

Panthers have 34 points after conquering the game on Saturday



DNA

LAHORE: Panthers inched Stallions by 20 runs to win their third consecutive game of the Champions One-Day Cup at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium. Stallions managed 324 in reply to Panthers 344/7 after Zaman Khan's late cameo gave them a hope of a miracle run chase. Earlier, Saim Ayub, who led the Panthers in the absence of Shadab Khan, powered his side to 344/7 on the back of mammoth century. The

22-year-old led from the front and took on the Stallions' bowlers throughout after he decided to bat first. Saim crafted a stunning 156 off 130 balls, which included 13 boundaries and 7 sixes at a strike rate of 120. His commanding innings anchored the Panthers' batting, laying a solid foundation for a massive total. Saim was well supported by Azan Awaiz, who contributed a steady 51 off 77 deliveries. Together, they put on a strong 138-run partnership for the first wicket before Awaiz was dismissed

by Abrar Ahmed. Usman Khan added further firepower, smashing 75 off just 47 balls, laced with 8 fours and 4 sixes, boosting the Panthers' momentum. His aggressive knock helped propel the team towards a competitive score, especially after Saim's solid groundwork. After Usman's dismissal at 254 in the 39th over, Mubasir Khan added 18 off 15 balls, but a series of quick wickets followed. Saim eventually fell in the 46th over, caught by Jahandad off Zaman Khan's bowling. Following his de-

parture, a mini-collapse ensued, with Amad Butt (2), Haider Ali (8), and Ararat Minhas (1) falling in quick succession. Despite the middle-order stutter, Rizwan Mehmood's unbeaten 14 off 9 balls helped Panthers finish strong. Zaman Khan was the pick of the bowlers for the opposition, claiming four crucial wickets. The Panthers' chase saw a rollercoaster of emotions, with captain Mohammad Haris setting the tone early. However, after a brisk start, Haris was dismissed for 19 off 14 balls, caught by Amad Butt off Ali Raza's bowling. His opening partner Shan Masood struggled to get going, scoring 8 off 11 deliveries before also falling to Ali Raza, leaving the Panthers at 33/2. Babar Azam followed soon after, contributing just 5 runs from 9 balls before being caught by Rizwan Mehmood off Mohammad Hasnain. With the top order crumbling at 37/3, it was Hussain Talat who began to steady the ship.

Lorenzo Musetti advances at Chengdu Open

Musetti rallies past Australia's Christopher O'Connell to face France's Adrian Mannarino

WEB DESK

CHENGDU: Italian Lorenzo Musetti rallied past Australian Christopher O'Connell 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the round of 16 at the Chengdu Open in China. The top-seeded Musetti recorded 33 winners, while O'Connell committed 45 unforced errors. Musetti advances to face France's Adrian Mannarino, who made the quarterfinals as the fifth seed with a 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-4 victory over China's Yi Zhou. Juncheng Shang will represent China in the quarters after defeating No. 8 Roman Safiullin of Russia 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. His opponent will be No. 2 seed Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan, a 6-4, 6-4 winner against Argentina's Federico Agustin Gomez. China's Zhizhen Zhang survived a bracket full of carnage Saturday, defeating Italian Mattia Bellucci 6-3, 6-0 on the strength of six aces and four of 11 break points converted.



People reject 'politics of anarchy', endorse...

FROM PAGE 01

and 'firebrand' Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, failed to arrive at the venue before the 6pm deadline. Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar claimed that Imran Khan-founded party failed to gather supporters despite receiving a 'free hand' from the government, while Punjab Minister Azma Bokhari stated that fewer than 3,000 people attended the rally from across the country. In a statement on the country's political and economic situation issued today, PM Shehbaz said that "the public wants relief from inflation, solutions to their problems, and economic development." The prime minister, stressing the urgency of addressing the public's economic concerns, called for a shift in political priorities, arguing that, instead of focusing on rallies and gatherings, the immediate need is to improve the economic condition of the masses. "We will hold rallies in 2028; but right now, it is time to work hard to fulfill the pledges made to the people." He linked the success of the country's economic recovery directly to political stability, warning that political chaos would disrupt efforts to provide relief to the public. "Economic recovery is tied to political stability; political chaos means affecting the process of providing relief to the people," he said. He praised the people for their role in supporting economic growth by promoting political stability and emphasised that national unity was crucial for sustaining this progress.

Carey sparks recovery as Australia thrash England

Carey made a dashing 74, with wicketkeeper dominating a last-wicket stand of 49 with Josh Hazlewood

LEEDS: Australia were indebted to Alex Carey as they beat England by 68 runs in the second one-day international at Headingley on Saturday to go 2-0 up in a five-match series. The world champions were in trouble at 221-9 after losing the toss. But Carey made a dashing 74, with the wicketkeeper dominating a last-wicket stand of 49 with Josh Hazlewood that took Australia to 270 all out. That proved more than enough as a new-look England, who collapsed to 65-5, were dismissed for 202 with nearly 10 overs remaining after none of their batsmen made a fifty. This was Australia's 14th consecutive ODI win, with only the

Australia 2003 World Cup-winning side led by Ricky Ponting, enjoying a longer unbeaten run at this level of 21 straight victories. Mitchell Starc (3-50) and Hazlewood (2-54) struck early in England's reply after the veteran fast bowlers missed Australia's seven-wicket success at Trent Bridge on Thursday with illness. Jamie Smith's 49 merely delayed the inevitable and when he chipped Hazlewood to mid-wicket, England were 159-7 in the 31st over. England's reply was derailed when Hazlewood had opener Phil Salt edging behind, while initially wayward left-armer Starc removed Will Jacks for a golden duck thanks to a fine

diving catch at second slip by Matthew Short. Starc's brilliant inswinging yorker then had England captain Harry Brook lbw for just four on the Yorkshire batsman's home ground. England were then in dire straits at 65-5 after paceman Aaron Hardie took two wickets in two balls. Ben Duckett, who made 95 at Trent Bridge, was deceived on 32 by Hardie's slower ball as the bowler held a fine return catch. Next ball, Liam Livingstone became the second golden duck of the innings when he was brilliantly caught down the legside by the diving Carey, only recalled this series after Josh Inglis was injured. - Agencies

Vinicius guides Madrid to fightback win

Kylian Mbappe finished off the win from the penalty spot

SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Vinicius Jr came off the bench to score once and set up another goal to steer champions Real Madrid to a 4-1 fightback victory over Espanyol in LaLiga. Real Madrid dominated proceedings but fell behind in the 54th minute due to a rare blunder by their goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who accidentally deflected a low cross from Jofre into his own net. However, Real found the equaliser four minutes later with a close-range strike by Dani Carvajal, taking advantage of a mistake by Espanyol goalkeeper Joan Garcia who let a Jude Bellingham lateral shot from close range squeeze under him, leaving the ball free for Carvajal to smash into an empty net. Vinicius Jr then worked his magic within three busy minutes, first lifting a brilliant cross with the outside of his foot to Rodrygo, who netted a first-touch effort from the middle of the box in the 75th minute, and then scoring himself with a tidy finish from a counter-attack in the 78th. Kylian Mbappe finished off the win from the penalty spot after substitute Endrick was fouled inside

the box in the 90th minute following a fine individual play by the Brazilian teenager. Real remained second on 14 points, one behind leaders Barcelona who have a game in hand and visit fourth-placed Villarreal on Sunday. "We played a very good game but it's true that it was difficult for us to finish plays. We created a lot of chances but we

have a lot of room for improvement," captain Luka Modric told Movistar Plus. "I don't know if it was our best or not but it was a great game, from start to finish. We must continue like today. To have Vinicius, Mbappe, Bellingham and Rodrygo is awesome; they are great. "They and the whole team are doing everything right but

we still can improve; we'll keep going in the next few games until we feel we reach out true potential. This match can give us confidence." Real manager Carlo Ancelotti made four changes from the team that beat Stuttgart 3-1 in their Champions League opener on Tuesday but they still were in commanding form from the start, with Mbappe as the main focus of their efforts up-front. The France captain was busy and relentlessly trying to connect with his team mates but lacked a final punch, missing several shots and still looking far from the difference-maker Real thought they were getting when they signed him as a free agent from Paris St Germain in the close season. Modric and Federico Valverde fed him with several good passes through in space, but Mbappe either finished off-target or sent the ball into the hands of the keeper, wasting several opportunities. After Espanyol got the lead, Ancelotti immediately brought Vinicius off the bench and the Brazilian winger gave the locals the spark they were missing. Real host Alaves on Tuesday before facing local rivals Atletico Madrid in a highly anticipated Spanish capital derby next weekend.



Pak set to raise Palestine...

FROM PAGE 01
cancelled hours before PM Shehbaz left for London. "In view of some important upcoming diplomatic engagements and the ongoing preparations for the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Deputy PM and FM [Ishaq] Dar will not proceed to New York for the 79th session of the UNGA," an FO spokesperson said. Expanding on PM Shehbaz's trip, the FO said that the premier will not only reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and support for the UN's role in fostering global peace, security, and prosperity but will also accentuate the importance of addressing the inequities in international economic relations and reforming the international financial architecture during his time in New York. The premier will also highlight the country's priority to place people at the heart of the domestic and global development agenda. He will express Islamabad's commitment as an incoming member of the UNSC for the year 2025-26, to work with all UN member states to uphold the UN Charter, preventing conflict, fostering peace, and promoting global prosperity, the FO added. Furthermore, PM Shehbaz would urge the international community to take decisive measures in addressing climate change and countering the rising tide of Islamophobia. Moreover, the premier will attend several high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA Session including the "High-Level Meeting on Existential Threat posed by Sea-level Rise," and the UNSC's open debate on "Leadership for Peace". The prime minister's schedule also includes bilateral meetings with several world leaders, including the UN secretary-general and UNGA president.

Efforts afoot to repatriate body of... student from China

FROM PAGE 01
dead bodies from China. "The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing is facilitating the process. It is working towards completion of the legal procedures and to facilitate repatriation with the next available PIA flight," the foreign office said. Furthermore, transportation with commercial flights involves special arrangements including embalming of the body and transport of the remains in a specialised vehicle. The dead body can be sent after completion of these arrangements. The spokesperson added that at the intervention of Pakistan embassy, the insurance company has agreed to pay compensation to the family and the university has offered to bear the cost of transportation of the student's body.

Briefs

OGDCL, Chinese CCDC sign MoU for shale, tight gas development in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's leading Exploration & Production company, and CCDC, the major player in Drilling and upstream Oil field Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sunday for the development of shale and tight gas potential of Pakistan. Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China, witnessed the MoU signing ceremony during the ongoing 8th Silk Road International Expo for Investment and Trade, according to a news release received here. The MoU highlights the commitment of both countries to developing Pakistan's shale and tight gas potential, aiming to address the country's energy needs through indigenous resources. Mumtaz Ali Soomro, Executive Director (Production) of OGDCL, and Mr. Zhang Zhidong, Vice President of CNPC Chuangqing Drilling Engineering Company Ltd., signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi also attended the event. Dr. Musadik Malik expressed hope that cooperation in the energy sector between both nations will continue to strengthen in the future, benefiting both countries mutually.—APP

ICCI elects Nasir Mansoor as President

ISLAMABAD: The election for the office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) was held at Chamber House on Saturday in which Nasir Mansoor Qureshi was elected as President, Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, as Vice President. All the candidates were elected unopposed and will formally take over the charge of their offices on October 1, 2024, said a news release. Speaking at the occasion, the newly elected President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that he would strive hard for the progress and prosperity of business community by focusing on resolving its issues. He said that the liaison with business related government departments and other relevant organizations would be further strengthened to address the problems of trade and industry. He said that he would take the fraternity on board on important issues and for ease of doing business.—APP

Malaysia police arrests hundreds in child abuse probe, 186 victims rescued

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian police said they have arrested 355 suspects as part of an investigation into child abuse at care homes run by an Islamic conglomerate. Police inspector-general Razarudin Husain said Saturday that the suspects were arrested in an operation to track down the remaining members of Global Ikhwan Service and Business (GISB), which police believe is linked to a banned Islamic sect. Among those arrested were GISB leader Nasiruddin Ali and 30 other members of the group. Police carried out raids on 82 premises, including charity homes, clinics, businesses, religious schools and private residences, Razarudin said. At least 186 victims had been rescued in the operation, he added. On Tuesday, Razarudin said authorities had frozen 96 accounts linked to the group containing approximately \$124,000. GISB has long been controversial for its links to the now-defunct Al-Arqam sect, and has faced scrutiny by religious authorities in the Muslim-majority country.—APP

EDF board approves 20 proposals of Rs 8.5b for textile, global branding

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to bolster Pakistan's export sector, the Export Development Fund (EDF) has approved 20 proposals of worth Rs 8.5 billion for initiatives targeting textiles, agriculture, gems and jewelry, defense, and global branding. This was approved during the 85th meeting of the Export Development Fund (EDF) Board under the chairmanship of Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a news release here on Sunday. The Board approved 20 out of the 29 financial proposals by participating in Expo 2025 in Osaka Japan. The minister highlighted the potential available in the reformed EDF for boosting the Pakistan exports by channelizing the money into various activities as per needs of the exporters and creating facilitative mode at the national level for value addition, research & development, increasing compliance as per global requirement, upgradation of the export infrastructure and marketing/branding of the country's potential in the international arena. The Board was apprised that EDF has made drastic reforms during the recent times which include notification of EDF as autonomous body, amendment in the EDF Act for direct transfer of Export Development Surcharge



to EDF Public Account, digitalization of revenue collection system with the help of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Pakistan Single Window (PSW). The board was informed that a detailed activity has been initiated with the help of FCDO Remit Project for development of Vision, Mission and Future Strategy of EDF while a Chartered Accountancy Firm has also been hired to restructure EDF as an organization for efficient, effective and transparent

utilization of the fund and its impact assessment. Chairman EDF Board directed to form various committees from amongst the EDF Board members to overlook research & development, training, technology enhancement, international outreach for assisting the Board to adopt forward-looking proactive approach. The EDF Board also directed to share details of proposed EDF-PSW MoU in the next meeting for proper analysis of the Board. The intent

of the MoU is to create two-way direct communication between EDF and exporters using PSW platform for need analysis, impact assessment, market intelligence and sectoral/regional/ geographic tagging of exporters for targeted information sharing. The projects included various marketing interventions such as holding of international level exhibitions inside Pakistan such as Texpo 2025 by TDAP, IDEAS by DEPO, Gems & Jewelry Show by FPCCI, OIC-Con-

ference and WEXNET targeting Women empowerment by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). These exhibitions will not only support Pakistani exporters to exhibit their products but will be used as branding activities for Pakistan across the globe. The project funding includes facilitation to international buyers through provision of best hospitality and arrangement of B2B meetings for best match-making.

Pak, China strengthen energy partnership at Silk Route Expo

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Saturday led a delegation of Pakistani energy companies to the 8th Silk Route Expo, fostering collaborations with Chinese counterparts to boost Pakistan's energy sector. During a series of roundtable meetings, Dr Malik met with representatives from leading Chinese companies, including the Shaanxi Energy Bureau, Yanchang Petroleum Group, Hua Lu Engineering and Technology Group, Shanghai Electric, Shaanxi Blower Group, China Typical Group and Hangzhou Maibao Import & Export Company Limited at the Pakistan Pavilion, set up for the Expo in Xian, China. Pakistani companies, including Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL), Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) and the Thar Coal Energy Board, showcased investment opportunities at the Expo said a news release. Opening the discussion forum, the minister outlined the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and assured the Chinese companies that Pakistan would provide maximum facilitation in partnering with Pakistani firms, whether individually or in consortia. During the meeting, key areas of partnership including oil and gas exploration, refinery upgrades, coal conversion and regasification were discussed. Dr Musadik Malik emphasized that Pakistan has one of the largest coal reserves and is committed to adding value to its natural resources while ensuring environmental protection. He also highlighted the country's focus on producing fertilizer using coal-based energy. "Moreover, the production of green and blue hydrogen, as well as ammonia, is under consideration. We will become technology partners and joint venture partners," Dr Musadik Malik remarked. Chinese companies also engaged in business-to-business meetings with their Pakistani counterparts, exchanging opportunities and plans for collaboration. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik, visited YanChang Petroleum, a leading Chinese energy company, on Saturday to promote international cooperation in the energy sector. The visit took place on the sidelines of the 8th Silk Route Expo in Xi'an, China, according to a news release received here. Discussions focused on key areas such as oil and gas exploration, refinery collaboration, integrated coal industrial complexes, and technological innovations. He emphasized the importance of international partnerships to meet growing energy demands. "Pakistan and China share common goals in ensuring energy security. This visit offers an opportunity to explore new avenues of cooperation that align with both nations' commitments to innovation in the energy sector," the minister said. The visit also included a tour of YanChang Petroleum's advanced facilities, where the minister was briefed on the company's latest technological advancements, including renewable energy integration and carbon capture initiatives. The discussions paved the way for potential oil and gas exploration joint ventures. YanChang Petroleum's Deputy Chief Manager said, "This visit has laid the foundation for future cooperation. After in-depth exchanges, we see great potential for collaboration.—DNA

Floods, landslides hit central Japan months after major quake

WAJIMA: Floods and landslides killed one person and left at least six missing in central Japan, with recovery teams at work on Sunday in a remote peninsula already devastated by a major earthquake this year. "Unprecedented" heavy rains that lashed the area from Saturday began to subside, leaving muddy scenes of destruction as the national weather agency urged people to stay vigilant for loose ground and other dangers. In the city of Wajima, splintered branches and a huge uprooted tree piled up at a bridge over a river whose raging brown waters almost reached ground level. People were seen wading into the mud to try to dig out half-buried cars, while elsewhere flood waters inundated emergency housing built for those who had lost their homes in the New Year's Day earthquake that killed at least 318 people. Akemi Yamashita, a 54-year-old resident, told AFP she had been driving on Saturday when "within only 30 minutes or so, water gushed into the street and quickly rose to half the height of my car." "I was talking to other residents of Wajima yesterday, and they said, 'it's so heart-breaking to live in this city'. I got weary when I heard that," she said, describing the earthquake and floods as "like something from a movie." Eight temporary housing complexes were affected in Wajima and Suzu, two of the cities on the Noto Peninsula ravaged by the magnitude-7.5 quake, which toppled buildings, triggered tsunami waves and sparked a major fire. More than 540 millimeters (21 inches) of rainfall was recorded in Wajima in the 72 hours to Sunday morning — the heaviest continuous rain since comparative data became available in 1976. Landslides blocked roads, complicating rescue efforts, and tens of thousands of people in the wider region were urged to evacuate. Muddy rivers ran high in Anamizu, south of Wajima, where more rain fell on Sunday morning onto quake-damaged houses and the shattered stone columns of a shrine still lying on the ground months after they were toppled. A message blared from the city's loudspeaker disaster prevention system warning residents that the rain could flood the sewer system and dirty water could rise up. Hideaki Sato, 74, stood on a bridge holding a blue umbrella, anxiously looking at the swollen water in a small canal. "My house was flattened completely in the quake," he told AFP. "I now live in a small apartment room right there," he said, pointing at a wooden structure behind him. "If this floods, it would be a real problem." Military personnel have been sent to the Ishikawa region on the Sea of Japan coast to join rescue workers, top government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi said on Saturday. Some 6,000 households were without power and an unknown number were without running water, the Ishikawa regional government said. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) downgraded its top warning to the second-highest alert on Sunday.—DNA

Asia's oldest operating trams see slow death in India

WEB DESK

KOLKATA: The dingling bell of a tram rattling through the streets of the Indian city of Kolkata is all it takes for Deep Das to have the "happiest moment" of his day. "There were times when there were frequent buses... but I still waited for the trams," the 18-year-old student said. But while their fans hail the slow-moving transport system as the "glory" of the megacity and an integral part of how historic Kolkata grew, the 151-year-old network is under threat. A lackadaisical attitude to maintaining the tram system has contributed to its slow decay. Das is among a group of enthusiasts called the Calcutta Tram Users' Association (CTUA) fighting to protect the trams. CTUA leader

and retired biochemist Debashish Bhattacharyya argues that city authorities risk losing a cheap transport solution with green credentials. "The investment you require is minimum," Bhattacharyya said, accusing politicians of ignoring the potential "economic success" of the trams. "The life of the trams is 50 to 80 years, in contrast to five to 10 years for buses — and their operational running cost is minimum." The trams evoke the soul of the city for many, he said. "This is the only city in India with tramways," he said. This is removed, then this glory — of not only the city, of the country — will be lost," he warned. Introduced in the sprawling eastern city in 1873 during the early days of the imperial British Raj, trams in Kol-

kata were initially horse-drawn, then steam-driven. Electric-powered trams took to the streets in 1900. The tram now rumbles on the serpentine roads in the city, weaving its way through snarled traffic jams of vintage yellow taxis, trucks, buses, cars and, at times, cattle. Sometimes tram infrastructure acts as poles for clotheslines, with laundry flapping in the breeze. The single-storey trams — painted in uniform stripes of bright blue and white, with a sunshine-yellow top — trundle along at around 20 kilometres (12 miles) per hour, at best, when they're not stuck in traffic. The state's West Bengal Transport Corporation argues its trams are cheap, safe, produce no noxious fumes and are economical, fitting five times more passengers than a bus,

calling them part of the city's "glorious past, present and our future." "Although it is true that their numbers have drastically come down... the Kolkata tram has managed to brave the odds", it argues. Rides are affordable at seven rupees (\$0.08), less than a cup of tea on the street and cheaper than the bus. But since they now run on irregular schedules, many commuters would rather pay more to be on time. While the tram has fixed tracks, India's freestyle obsession to traffic rules means anybody and everybody can overtake it. So the tram has to give way, and the space to manoeuvre on the streets is zero. But for many passengers, it is a trip down memory lane. Teacher Ram Singh, 54, said a ride reminded him of his childhood, when the trams were a core part of the city's public transport system.

FPCCI appoints Kashif as advisor on regional coordination



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Shiekh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has appointed Mr. Kashif Zahir Chairman of Pakistan Affairs Scandinavia - Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SPCCI) & Former Vice Chairman of Handicraft Association Pakistan as an Advisor to the President of FPCCI on Regional Coordination for the term 2024-25. Zahir's appointment acknowledges his vast experience in fostering global relationships. His timely recommendations and strategic insights are expected to greatly benefit the business community, particularly in promoting bilateral trade and enhancing exports from Pakistan through the various initiatives of the Ministry of Commerce and the SIFC. Zahir's Leadership and Vision will play a pivotal role in enhancing Trade Relations and Fostering Economic Collaborations between Pakistan & Various Regions of the World. Zahir stated, "The government must focus on rapid industrialization and take bold steps to accelerate economic growth. It is essential to restore the confidence of both foreign and local investors to drive sustainable development."

CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Mr. Usman Arab Saati

Publisher and Chief Editor of

Daily Vatan (Gujrati) and Monthly Vatan Mag.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace

and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

U.S. technological restrictions do not hinder China's economic progress

BEIJING: The United States and its allies are increasingly adopting a geopolitical competition mindset to address international relations, resulting in heightened conflicts and confrontations worldwide. This was stated by Chinese former Envoy Wu Hailong here at the Sub-Session on International Relations of the 8th Taihe Civilizations Forum, according to a report carried by China Economic Net. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell has repeatedly asserted that China represents the greatest challenge in U.S. history. This perspective embodies a rigid Cold War mentality and a zero-sum approach prevalent within U.S. policy-making circles. However, does this strategy truly serve America's long-term interests? Wu Hailong argues that "despite the economic and technological restrictions imposed by the United States and its Western allies, which are driven by geopolitical motivations, these actions have not hindered China's progress. Instead, they have become catalysts for China's technological innovation." He emphasized China's commitment to enhancing and expanding its product capabilities. In the semiconductor sector, the U.S. sought to stifle China by restricting exports of lithography machines from Dutch manufacturers. However, China has recently announced that it can now produce its own lithography machines, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. Moreover, chips have become China's leading export commodity, with chip exports surpassing 500 billion yuan in the first half of this year—an increase of 26% year-on-year. China is poised to become the world's largest exporter of chips by 2030. This demonstrates that U.S. pressure has not hindered the development of China's semiconductor industry; rather, it has accelerated China's independent research and development in this crucial area," Wu noted. In telecommunications, Huawei emerged as the top smartphone vendor in China during the first half of 2024, despite facing significant restrictions from the U.S. The digital economy in China is one of the fastest-growing sectors, further highlighting this resilience.—DNA

Briefs

NAB recovers Rs 168.5 bln in BRT case

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Sunday announced the recovery of Rs 168.5 billion in the BRT Peshawar project, marking its largest recovery in the bureau's 25-year history. The investigation into the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project began in 2018, amidst allegations of illegal contract awards and misappropriation of funds. The case saw NAB rejecting contractors' claims of Rs 31.5 billion in the International Court of Arbitration. Investigations revealed six major contracts were wrongly awarded to specific companies, which later breached their terms. Over 400 bank accounts were inspected, revealing further evidence of misconduct. The contractors submitted fake guarantees and delayed project completion, leading to Rs 86 billion in damages sought by the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). NAB's efforts resulted in a saving of Rs 108.5 billion, along with an additional Rs 9 billion in financial expenditure saved by completing the project within its original cost framework.

Detention orders for 487 PTI workers withdrawn

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Orders for the detention of 487 active workers and leaders in light of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rally, have been rescinded. The detention orders were issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore upon the request of the Lahore police. The 30-day detention orders were originally issued on September 17, 19, and 20, but have now been canceled per the DC's instructions. During the rally, police had arrested over 100 workers, with many being sent to jail. Following the withdrawal of the detention orders, all individuals are set to be released.

Left-leaning leader wins Sri Lanka presidential vote

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Hon. Anura Kumara Dissanayake on his victory in the Sri Lankan presidential elections

NEWS DESK

COLOMBO: Left-leaning politician Anura Kumara Dissanayake has won Sri Lanka's presidential election after a historic second round of counting. No candidate won more than 50% of the total votes in the first round, where Dissanayake got 42.31% while his closest rival, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, got 32.76%. But Dissanayake, who promised voters good governance and tough anti-corruption measures, emerged as winner after the second count, which tallied voters' second and third choice candidates. The election on Saturday was the first to be held since mass protests unseated the country's leader, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in 2022 after Sri Lanka suffered its worst economic crisis. To revive the economy, Dissanayake, 55, has promised to develop the manufacturing, agriculture and IT sectors. He has also committed to continuing the deal struck with the IMF to bail Sri Lanka out of the economic crisis while reducing the impact of its austerity measures on the country's poorest. Until this weekend's vote, all of Sri Lanka's eight presidential elections since 1982 have seen the winner emerge during the first round of counting. This poll has been described as one of the closest in the country's history. Seventeen million Sri Lankans were eligible to vote on Saturday and the country's elections commission said it was the most peaceful in the country's history. Still, police announced a curfew late Saturday night citing "public safety. It was lifted at noon local time (06:30 GMT). Dissanayake promised voters tough anti-corruption measures and good governance - messages that resonated strongly with voters who have been clamouring for systematic change since the crisis. This enabled him to overcome trepidation over the violent past of his political party, the LcW5MfbLwHayuHRL2jfeQN8AXGWC4B-



v6Xk(JVP), which carried out two armed insurrections against the Sri Lankan state in the 70s and 80s. His alliance, the National People's Party - of which the JVP is a part - rose to prominence during the 2022 protests, known as the aragalaya - Sinhala for struggle. He has also sought to moderate the hard left stance of his party, in more recent years. Early results showed him rocketing to the lead, prompting several high profile figures - including the country's foreign minister - to congratulate him. But he lost some ground to Premadasa as voting continued, prompting the need for the second round of counting. Incumbent president Ranil Wickremesinghe won 17% of the vote, putting him in third place in the polling. He was eliminated from the second count, which was only be-

tween the two frontrunners. The country's new president will be faced with the twin tasks of reviving the economy and lifting millions from crushing poverty. An economic meltdown fueled the "Aragalaya" (struggle) uprising that unseated Rajapaksa from the presidential palace in 2022. At that time, Sri Lanka's foreign currency reserves had dried up, leaving the country unable to import essentials such as fuel. Public debt had ballooned to \$83bn while inflation zoomed to 70%. This made basics like food and medicine unaffordable to ordinary people. The country's economic misery has been blamed on major policy errors, weak exports and years of under-taxation. This was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which choked tourism, a key economic driver. But many people have also blamed corruption and mismanagement, fuelling anger against Rajapaksa and his family, who collectively ruled Sri Lanka for more than 10 years. "The most serious challenge is how to restore this economy," said DrAthulasiriSamarakoon, a political scientist at the Open University of Sri Lanka, told media. During his term, Wickremesinghe had secured a \$2.9bn lifeline from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is crucial to opening additional funding channels, but comes with strict economic and governance policy reforms. Sri Lanka is restructuring the terms of its debt payments with foreign and domestic lenders, as mandated by the IMF. The main focus has been the country's \$36bn in foreign debt, of which \$7bn is owed to China, its largest bilateral creditor. Like Dissanayake, Premadasa has also pushed for IT as well as the establishment of 25 new industrial zones. He said tourism should be supported so that it becomes the country's top foreign currency earner. Wickremesinghe during the campaign said he would double tourist arrivals and establish a national wealth fund as well as new economic zones to increase growth.

FBR mulls slapping Rs1 mln fine on tax evaders

Authority suggests sealing of premises over non-registration by manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Amid the incumbent government's strenuous efforts to address the country's financial woes, the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is mulling strict measures including imposing a Rs1 million penalty on various categories of tax evaders. The tax authority has proposed six key measures against nil, null and non-filers while identifying 10 major revenue spinner sectors for hiring independent experts which include textile, financial and insurance, chemical and fertilizer, petroleum, tobacco, iron and steel, beverages, tea, cement and real estate activities. The development comes a day after the body announced that it would not be extending the September 30 deadline for the submission of tax returns. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif led adminis-

tration in its tax-heavy budget passed in June, set out an ambitious taxation plan to boost its prospects of securing a fresh bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - which it eventually did as the programme now awaits the approval of the Fund's executive board. However, the FBR faces a monumental tax shortfall in the first quarter (July-September) under the IMF programme of \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) coupled with its failure to bring 3.2 million retailers into the tax net, the tax collection body has geared up for significant taxation measures against millions. Sources say that an internal assessment of the FBR has shown a tax shortfall of over Rs220 billion for the first quarter (July-September) against the agreed target of Rs2,652 billion. The authority faced a shortfall of Rs98 billion in August 2024. The FBR had collected Rs1,456 billion in the first two months (July and August) against the assigned target of Rs1,554 billion leaving the body with the challenging task of fetching Rs1,196 billion during the ongoing month to materialise the first quarter agreed target with the IMF.

51 people killed in explosion at Iran coal mine

TEHRAN: An explosion in a coal mine in eastern Iran has resulted in the deaths of at least 51 individuals and injured another 20, as reported by Iranian state television, which also noted that many workers are feared to be trapped. The blast occurred due to a methane gas leak at a coal mine in Tabas, located approximately 540 km (335 miles) southeast of Tehran. Mohammad-Ali Akhondi, the director general of the provincial crisis management department, stated on Sunday that the incident resulted from a methane gas explosion in two sections of the mine on Saturday night. At

least 51 workers suffocated due to the sudden release of methane and carbon monoxide, he noted, adding that the death toll may rise as rescue operations face significant challenges due to the conditions underground. A rapid rescue operation is emphasised, the official remarked, "but the reality is that it is a difficult task to rescue the injured from a depth of 700 meters diagonally and 250 meters vertically underground." At least 69 miners were working in one of the mine's tunnels when the unexpected gas leak happened on Saturday night. Subsequent reports indicated that 24 workers were believed to be trapped inside, while 28 others were taken to hospital for medical attention. Iran's President Masoud-Pezeshkian, who was preparing to depart for New York to attend the UN General Assembly, stated that he has ordered all possible measures to be taken to rescue those trapped and support their families. - Agencies

Jerusalem Post exposed Imran Khan

DNA

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has stated that the Jerusalem Post has exposed Imran Khan's duplicity. In response to an article published in the Israeli newspaper, Marriyum Aurangzeb mentioned that the Jerusalem Post described Imran Khan as an ally and that the founder of PTI wanted normal relations with Israel. She stated that the remarks made by the Jerusalem Post were eye-opening, as the article revealed Imran Khan's contradictory statements and deceitfulness. PML-N leader Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry highlighted that Pakistan was being weakened today and their (opposition) only way to weaken the country was by undermining its military. He claimed that the PTI was attempting to weaken the Pakistan Armed Forces. He noted that the people of Pakistan had consistently raised questions about the burning of martyrs' statues and making mockery of them.

Islamabad Red Zone sealed again

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The federal police once again sealed the Red Zone Islamabad and put security on high alert after the protest call by TLP. According to the report, four out of five red zone roads have been completely sealed by installing containers at Serena Chowk, Nadra Chowk, Express Chowk and Marriott Chowk. Police also sealed Fazal Haq Road and China Chowk by installing barbed wire on Jinnah Avenue and heavy personnel deployed in the area. Police said that the decision was being taken that a protest call was given by TLP as the campaign for the release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui.



XIAN: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik witnessed the MOU signing ceremony between OGDCL and Chinese company CCDC. - DNA

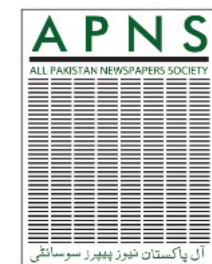
Hezbollah, Israel exchange fire amid fear of widening conflict

Israel closed schools, restricted gatherings in the north and ordered hospitals there to move patients and staff to protected areas - many have secured or underground facilities designed to withstand rocket fire

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: Israel and Hezbollah exchanged heavy fire into Sunday, with Israeli warplanes carrying out the most intense bombardment in almost a year of conflict across Lebanon's south and Hezbollah firing rockets deep into northern Israel. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said strikes would continue until it was safe for evacuated people in the north to return - setting the stage for a long conflict as Hezbollah has vowed to fight on until a ceasefire in the parallel Gaza war. "In recent days we have inflicted a series of blows on Hezbollah that it never imagined," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video statement. "If Hezbollah has not understood the message, I promise you, it will understand the message." The conflict - which sharply escalated over the past week - has raged since Hezbollah opened a second front against Israel, saying it was acting in solidarity with Palestinians facing an Israeli offensive further south in Gaza. The Israeli military said it struck around 290 targets on Saturday, including thousands of Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels, and that it would continue to hit more. Israel

closed schools, restricted gatherings in the north and ordered hospitals there to move patients and staff to protected areas - many have secured or underground facilities designed to withstand rocket fire. Air raid sirens sounded constantly in Israel. About 150 rockets, cruise missiles and drones were fired at Israel overnight and into Sunday, most of which were intercepted by air defenses, including an "aerial target" that came from the east, the military said. Several buildings were struck, including a house badly damaged near the Israeli city of Haifa. Rescue teams treated wounded but there were no reports of deaths. Residents had been instructed to stay near bomb shelters and safe rooms. Hezbollah said it hit a barracks and another Israeli position with squadrons of attack drones on Sunday. It said it launched rockets at military-industrial facilities in an "initial response" to two days of attacks last week in which pagers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded. Those attacks, widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, killed 39 people and left more than 3,000 injured. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement. An official in the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a grouping of Iran-backed armed factions, said they launched cruise missile and explosive drone attacks at Israel at dawn on Sunday as part of "a new phase in our support front" with Lebanon. "Escalation in Lebanon means escalation from Iraq," the official said. The move will stoke fears that the conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon could spread into the rest of the region. The UN special coordinator in Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, said in a post on X that "with the region on the brink of an imminent catastrophe, it cannot be overstated enough: there is NO military solution that will make either side safer."



Believing news from unreliable sources spreads misinformation, erodes trust in media, and undermines democracy by misinforming people.

This can lead to public confusion, anxiety, and social division as false content fuels fear and conflict. Key factors include confirmation bias, poor media literacy, and emotional manipulation

Solutions include promoting media literacy, supporting quality journalism, and encouraging critical thinking to help people distinguish credible information from misleading content.

Yes, of course it hurts



#StopFakeNews #PromoteAuthenticity