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Detailed News On Page-06

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

Iran ready for nuclear talks at UN

Detailed News On Page-08



Saudi Arabian envoy calls on Mohsin Naqvi

Detailed News On Page-08



'One-man show'

Justice Shah voices objections to Practice, Procedure ordinance

Senior puisne judge says he can't attend committee's meeting until constitutional validity of amendments is determined



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has expressed concerns over newly promulgated Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance that deals with the affairs of the top court including the formation of benches. In a letter written to the secretary of the Supreme Court on Monday, Justice Shah said within hours of the promulgation of the ordinance, the judges committee was reconstituted and Justice Munib Akhtar was removed from the composition of the committee. Last week, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa appointed Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to the three-member judges' committee, excluding Justice Munib Akhtar hours after the promulgation of the new practice law. The newly amended law grants additional powers to the chief justice to nominate a judge as a member of a committee, if

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Xi calls

CPEC as

'strategic

coop' for ties

'ECP failed to perform its role' SC backs PTI bid in detailed judgment

When ECP makes significant mistakes impacting electoral process, judicial intervention becomes necessary, reads 70-page verdict

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday issued a detailed verdict of the reserved seats case terming the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) "a political party" and eligible for the seats' quota. The 70-page judgment, penned by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, comes days after National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq had written to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) saying that the apex court's July 12 short order was "incapable of implementation" after the amendments to Election Act 2017. The letter referred to the top court's 8-5 majority verdict which had paved the way for the Imran Khan-founded party's resurrection in the assemblies after being kicked out of the February 8 polls. The NA speaker also pointed out the amendments to Section 66 and Section 104-A, pertaining to the conditions for declaration of a candidate as independent, and the irrevocable nature of the declaration of their joining a political party, respectively. He further referred to the Section 1(2) of the Amended Election Act a member of the committee is absent. regarding the legislation's retrospective effect dating back to 2017.

Rules out reallocation of seats

Parliament is supreme over SC verdicts: Tarar

Only the assembly elected by the people has the right to enact legislation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam

Nazeer Tarar has said the parliament holds supreme legislative power and is above the verdicts of Supreme Court. Addressing a press conference, he said only the assembly specified by the people has the minute to the minute to the people has the minute to th elected by the people has the right to enact legislation. Responding to a question, Tarar said "law is very clear that an independent candidate has to join a political party within 3 days therefore there are some confusions which will be cleared in a revision appeal." Tarar maintained that the process of joining a party of an independent candidate was irreversible while reiterating that the legislation of the parliament was supreme than the deci- LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf sions of the Supreme Court. He recalled the (PTI) Chairman, Barrister Gohar, has verdict of the Peshawar High Court in which said that denying political space to the it upheld the decision of the Election Com- country's most popular party will only mission with a majority of five zero. Respond- benefit non-political forces. Speaking ing to a query, the federal minister said PTI to media representatives in the prowas not a party in cases in ECP, Peshawar vincial capital, he emphasised that High Court or Supreme Court while loyalty curbing political participation could

Gohar urges political

PTI chairman stressed that denying space to the leading party may result in non-political forces gaining ground

DNA

Continued on Page 06 Continued on Page 06

US envoy calls on Nawaz, Maryam

Participants discuss issues of mutual interest

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: US Ambassador Donald Blome on Monday called on Pakistan Muslim Nawaz (PML-N) President Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz at Jati Umra, Lahore. The Punjab CM welcomed Ambassador Blome on his arrival at Jati Umra. The participants in the meeting discussed issues of mutual interest. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal was also present.

Lt Gen **Asim Malik** appointed new ISI chief

Newly appointed ISI DG has served as the commander of Infantry Division, Balochistan



STAFF REPORT

Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed new chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) announced on Monday. Lt Gen Malik has replaced Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum as the country's spymaster and will take charge of his new command on September 30. Currently, he is serving as the adjutant general at the General

Headquarters (GHQ). The newly appointed ISI director general (DG) has served as the commander of Balochistan infantry division and infantry brigade in Waziristan. He has also received a Sword of Honor in his course and has served as the chief instructor NDU, as well as an instructor Command and Staff College. Moreover, Lt Gen Malik had also served as the chief instructor at the National Defence University and as an instructor at the Command and Staff College Quetta. The new ISI DG is a graduate of Fort Leavenworth in the United States and Royal College of Defence Studies in London.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Oybek Usmanov, meeting President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Ambassador Usmanov served in Pakistan on three occasions, two times as Ambassador. During his tenure relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan touched new heights. - DNA

Palestinians are enduring genocide

Imran denies having any links with Israel

PTI founder accuses detractors of twisting the narrative based on a recent Israeli newspaper article

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan, currently incarcerated, has dismissed allegations of being a proponent of establishing relations with Israel, accusing detractors of twisting the narrative based on a recent Israeli newspaper article. Khan, who is facing several legal battles while in detention, addressed the media at Adiala Jail on Monday, labelling the claims as part of a "propaganda campaign." "Since yesterday, there has been a propaganda blitz, citing an Israeli newspaper that I am the biggest advocate for relations with Israel," Khan said. "These claims are absurd. The article did mention me, but clearly, some people do not understand English." The article in question, published by The Jerusalem Post, discussed Khan's influence in the Muslim world and the West, speculating on

Continued on Page 06

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'Parliament's rights can't be snatched'

Urges to play role to strengthen the Parliament and constitution

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan asserted that no one would be allowed to take away Parliament's rights. He emphasised that legislation was Parliament's right and the constitutional amendments were always passed after thorough debate on it. We had witnessed such judgments where judges directed us to pass this or that law. The court couldn't dictate Parliament to pass laws as per its choice

Continued on Page 06

0335 5111043

President Xi congrats PM Shehbaz on his birthday in a letter

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the letter, President Xi emphasized the strong and enduring partnership between China and Pakistan, noting that both nations have always supported each other through good and challenging times. China's President remarked that their relationship has remained unaffected by global changes and continues to thrive. President Xi also highlighted the productive discussions during PM Shehbaz's visit to China in June and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening China-Pakistan relations.

Pak exports witness 14% increase

Country's trade deficit has narrowed to 3.6 billion dollars

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan's exports recorded a significant increase of fourteen percent in the beginning of this financial year due to the support of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). According to the statistics, exports increased by 620 million dollars to reach 5.1 billion dollars in August. Due to increase in exports, the country's trade deficit has narrowed to 3.6 billion dollars from 3.751 billion dollars at the beginning of the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, imports of high-duty items such as vehicles, home appliances, and other consumer goods such as garments, fabrics and footwear fell by 1.3 percent in August.

Pakistan committed to enhance ties with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The President expressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the significant progress achieved by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the areas of economy, trade, defence, culture, education and people-to-people contacts. The President expressed these views while addressing at the National Day Reception of KSA, hosted by Saudi Embassy to celebrate the 94th Anniversary of the National Day of the KSA in Islamabad, today. The event was attended by the federal Ministers, diplomats, dignitaries, and civil and military officers. While extending heartfelt felicitations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud and the people of Saudi Arabia on their National Day, the President highlighted that both brotherly countries enjoyed ex- ship of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Prince cellent relations in various fields and had always supported Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom had emerged each other during challenging times. The President ex- as a great country of the 21st century. Calling Saupressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince di Arabia's Vision 2030 a role model for the world,

Continued on Page 06

PM Shehbaz Sharif felicitates Saudi Arabia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended felicitation to the government and people of Saudi Arabia as the Kingdom celebrated its 94th National Day on Monday, marking the unification of the country by the late King Abdul Aziz in 1932. In his message, the premier said, that under the leader-

Continued on Page 06



03325808422

CM emphasizes CPEC's importance for Pak-China ties

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Monday the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a vital indicator of the robust and enduring relationship between Pakistan and China. The CM views CPEC as a crucial development initiative that not only enhances economic ties but also reflects the deep-rooted partnership and mutual cooperation between the two nations. She expressed her views while participating in the 75th National Day ceremony of the People's Republic of China, where she met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shirin to convey her congratulations on this significant occasion. The CM expressed greetings on behalf of the Pakistani people, stating, "On the occasion of China's 75th National Day, I extend my warm wishes to the Chinese people." She conveyed that the people of Punjab also send heartfelt congratulations to their Chinese brothers and sisters, expressing pride in attending the event. She lauded the Chinese nation for achieving remarkable heights in development and innovation while

extending a hand of friendship to the

ANF unearths

drug factory

RAWALPINDI :Anti-Narcot-

ics Force (ANF) unearthed

a factory engaged in the

production of drugs and

intoxicated tablets, said an

ANF Headquarters spokes-

man here on Monday. He

informed that ANF in a suc-

cessful operation against

a factory manufacturing

chemical drugs and intox-

icated tablets managed to

arrest two suspects. Acting

on a tip-off, a raid was con-

ducted in Danishabad area,

Peshawar and the factory

was sealed while the ANF

team recovered chemical

drugs, intoxicated tablets

and other equipment. A

thorough search of the fac-

tory led to the seizure of a

tablet punching machine,

various equipment such as

punches, drvers. mixers

and scales. During the op-

eration, both the accused

were caught red-handed

while preparing intoxicat-

ed tablets at the site. 1425

intoxicated tablets, 2.5

kg powder, 120 grams of

methamphetamine (Ice),

35 grams Isotonitazene

and 13 grams of Nimetaz-

epam were also recovered

from the possession of the

accused. The accused used

to supply drugs to the stu-

dents in hostels and educa-

IRSA releases

218,800

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River

System Authority (IRSA) on

Monday released 218,800

cusecs water from various

rim stations with inflow of

142,500 cusecs. Accord-

ing to the data released by

IRSA, water level in River

Indus at Tarbela Dam was

1537.16 feet and was 139.16

feet higher than its dead

level of 1,398 feet. Water in-

flow and outflow in the dam

was recorded as 83,400

cusecs and 130,000 cusecs

level in River Jhelum at

Mangla Dam was 1222.05

feet, which was 174.05 feet

higher than its dead level of

1.050 feet. The inflow and

outflow of water was record-

ed 15,300 cusecs and 45,000

cusecs respectively.—APP

The water

respectively.

tional institutions.-APP

global community. Maryam Nawaz emphasized that China's greatness lies in its unwavering commitment to peace, cooperation, and humanitarian well-being. Highlighting the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China, she remarked that their relationship was built on trust, respect, and a shared vision for a bright future. "Our bond is not merely based on strategic interests; it is a connection of hearts and souls," she asserted. The CM acknowledged China's significant achievements in lifting millions out of poverty and praised its role as a model for the world in technology, infrastructure, and industry. She noted China's indispensable contribution during global crises, affirming its commitment to providing resources to countries in need. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has consistently promoted peace and development, exemplified by its Belt and Road Initiative, she said and added that the fruits of China's economic development are benefiting people around the world and that China is emerging as a leader with a vision that transcends borders. CM Maryam Nawaz expressed pride in the strong and resilient friend-

ship between Pakistan and China,

affirming that both nations were progressing together towards prosperity and a peaceful future. She prayed for the continued strengthening of the Pakistan-China friendship. Zhao Shirin, the Chinese Consul General in Lahore, acknowledged the Chief Minister's people-friendly initiatives, highlighting projects like the IT City, cancer hospital, air ambulance services, and solar panel programs that provide real relief to the public. He commended the Punjab government for delivering excellent services to the people and called out "Long Live Pakistan-China Friendship." The ceremony featured the national anthems of both countries, traditional Chinese cultural performances, and the cutting of a cake to celebrate China's 75th anniversary. Various cultural presentations included Chinese music, songs of love for the homeland, and a dragon dance. Prominent attendees included Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan, Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Industry Chaudhry Shafique Hussain, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, and IG Usman Anwar.

Pakistan should embrace materials suited to environment: Gen Inam

er forecasting, noting that

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General, Inam Haider Malik on Monday said Pakistan should must embrace not only traditional infrastructure but also materials suited to the country's environment. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

hosted a seminar focused on "Disaster Resilient Infrastructure," in collaboration with Bahria University, aiming to address the pressing need for climate adaptation infrastructure resilience in Pakistan. Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik led discussions on the country's preparedness for future disasters, highlighting the critical threats posed by climate change and the steps being taken to mitigate its impact. "Resilience won't come solely from the type of construction but from adapting to what we have," he emphasized. He lauded NDMA's technological efforts, including simulations of the 2022 floods and advanced weath-

"technology today can not only address present needs but future ones as well." In his keynote address, Lieutenant General Malik warned that if global temperatures exceed the 1.5°C threshold. countries like Pakistan would face unprecedented climatic disasters. "From glacial melting to recurring floods, we are already witnessing severe climate impacts,' he said. He cited the 2022 floods, which caused massive devastation, with over 8,000 miles of roads and 480 bridges damaged, leading to significant economic losses. Recovery and rehabilitation remain ongoing challenges. The seminar featured experts from various fields, all underlining the importance of infrastructure resilience in combating climate change. Dr. Shafqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), pointed out that it is not the disasters themselves but inappropriate infrastructure that leads to high mortality. "Pakistan is one of the ten

countries most impacted by development, deforestation, and pollution are aggravat-ing these crises," he said. preparedness in the Philipfloods more effectively. need for integrating Disasinto development plans and addressing governance issues. He identified five major impacts of disasters: economic, physical, human. social, and environmental capital, noting that "Pakistan loses 23% of its GDP annually due to disasters." Prof. Engineer Dr. Azam Khan of NUST stressed the urgent need for a comprehensive infrastructure inventory in Pakistan. "Pakistan is located at the confluence of three tectonic plates, making it highly vulnerable to earthquakes. Poor construction materials

climate change. Unplanned Drawing comparisons, he highlighted how community pines has helped them manage frequent cyclones and Munir further urged the ter Risk Reduction (DRR)

and a lack of supervision exacerbate the damage even during minor quakes," he explained. -APP



LAHORE: Senior PPP leader from Lalamusa Nadeem Asghar Kaira in a meeting with the Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem. Both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest. – DNA

BMMC received approval for **GEM** board listing from PSX

KARACHI: Buri Modaraba Management Company (BMMC) has received approval from the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for listing Burj Clean Energy Modaraba (BCEM) on the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM), Pakistan's First

Green Energy Fund. This approval is a big step for Pakistan's Capital Markets, BMMC's ability to access direct investments through the Stock Exchange for sustainable energy investments will lead the way for clean energy project developers and investors to come together through BCEM.

According to press release issued by BURJ Clean Energy Modaraba Company, The Initial Offering (IO) of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba (BCEM) will take place on the 25th and 26th of September 2024, marking the official launch of this groundbreaking fund.

The offering will consist of 10%, amounting to PKR 100 million out of a total issue size of PKR 1 billion. BCEM/ Green Energy Fund is Pakistan's first renewable energy investment fund to be listed on the GEM Board.

move highlights This BMMC's commitment to offering profitable, Shariah-compliant investment opportunities through capital markets while advancing the growth of renewable energy projects across Pakistan.—APP

PTCL to expedite digital transformation journey

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Hamdard University, a part of Hamdard Foundation, have entered into a strategic partnership for the providing managed ICT & Mobility solutions for the faculty and students. PTCL provides Hamdard University with its state-of-the-art infrastructure and platform solutions equipped with the latest technology & managed security, said a news release issued on Monday. Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University, Basharat Qureshi Group VP Enterprise PTCL & Umar Farooqi, Group Director Enterprise PTCL. Hamdard University's Kaleem Ahmed Ghias, Registrar, Faisal Mangroria, Group Director Finance, Abutalib Bhutto, Group Director, HR, Muhammad Ovais, Director Finance and PTCL's Group VP B2B Strategy & Product Management, Sayyed Muhammad Imran Ali attended the signing ceremony. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University, said: "We are pleased to develop the understanding with PTCL as our trusted partner for infrastructure and platform hosting as part of the University's digital transformation

ty's approach to infrastructure, platforms, and data management. By leveraging PTCL's data center and telecommunications expertise, Hamdard University aims to achieve an enhanced and reliable operating leverage, and reduced time-to-market Sayyed Muhammad Imran Ali, Group VP B2B Strategy & Product Management, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said: "We are pleased to develop

strategy. This partnership

signifies a transformative

step forward in the universi-

of products and services." the understanding with Hamdard University to support them in fulfilling their educational needs.-APP

PPCA to address public complaints against police

LAHORE: The Chief Minister of Puniab has announced a significant initiative to address public complaints against the police by establishing a "Provincial Police Complaint Authority (PPCA)."

According to a spokesper-Department, a high-powered committee has been formed under the Chief Minister's directive to determine the criteria for selecting members of the PPCA. The committee will be chaired by the Provincial Law Minister, with the Secretary Home Punjab serving as the administrative secretary. Members of the committee include the Chief Secretary of Punjab, Secretary Law, Inspector General of Punjab, Advocate General of Punjab, and Additional Inspector General of the Special Branch. The purpose of this high-powered committee is to establish criteria for selecting capable, honest, and qualified members for the Provincial Police Complaint

The spokesperson added that the formation of the PPCA will enable the resolution of public complaints against the police. Under Police Order 2002, the establishment of this authority is mandatory for addressing serious complaints against police personnel. The PPCA will be able to receive complaints regarding negligence, misconduct, or abuse of power against any police officer and will have the authority to conduct inquiries and take

The PPCA will consist of a Chairperson and six members. After the establishment at the provincial level, similar authorities will be set up at the district level. According to the rules, the Governor of Punjab will appoint the maining six members will be selected by the Public Service Commission. The law mandates that authority members should be reputable individuals with significant expertise, knowledge, and experience in their respective fields. The committee's first meeting is scheduled for this week at the Home Department under the chair of law minister, where the criteria for selecting authority members

will be discussed.-APP

Environment friendly public transport viable solution for improving air quality

PESHAWAR: Once known as the "City of Flowers," Peshawar with 2500 years documented history is now grappling with air pollution and traffic congestion, exposing its residents to various health hazards. Once famed as fragrant blooms of monsoon's flowers and red roses mostly blossomed in its ancient Mughal era gardens of Wazir Bagh and Shalmir Gardens, Peshawar has now been overshadowed by the relentless smoke exhausted from an influx of unregistered rickshaws, old taxis, and aging passenger vehicles where air pollution could be seen even with a naked eye due to dozens of brick kilns operating in its peripheries. Congested areas like Hastnagri, Firdus, Khyber bazaar, Shoba, Tehkal, and Dabgari garden were engulfed by traffic congestion, where long queues of vehicles stretched endlessly, leaving many to stay for long hours in the hot weather amid traffic chaos. Dabgari Garden, a vital center for medical services, has become a bottleneck where patients, often in ambulances, find themselves stuck for hours en route to essential care. Traffic jams have made our life miserable," lamented Fayaz Khan, a retired PST teacher while talking to APP at Dabgari Garden. After spending nearly two hours navigating a route that should take just thirty minutes, he expressed frustration over the physical toll the gridlock takes. "My knees started to hurt from constant clutch and brake use while trapped in a massive traffic jam at Hastnagri-Firdus GT Road," Fayaz said. The transport department official told APP that the reliance on informal public transport has exacerbated the traffic situation as people still prefer wagons and taxis between Hayatabad and Chamkani despite BRT service. "Most residents opt for unregistered rickshaws and taxis while travelling in the interior city, contributing to the traffic disorder on our streets, increasing problems for traffic policemen" he noted. The enforcement of regulations of traffic and environment laws to curb illegal operations is essential, alongside increasing BRT buses frequency to enhance mobility and combat air pollution in Peshawar. Sadaf Kamal, Spokeswoman of Trans Peshawar told APP that BRT service has ensured speedy quality mobility in Peshawar where about 350,000 passengers were daily travelling through it. She said the number of buses has been increased to 244 in main corridor and feeder routes, helping in addressing the problem of traffic congestion on BRT routes. Sadaf said that 503 smoke emitting wagons and buses were scrapped after launching of BRT at Peshawar and that compensation were paid to the owners besides jobs to its drivers and conductors. Due to BRT, she said the number of women passengers had increased from two percent to 30 percent besides positive social, educational.-DNA

Poor governance, law & order in KP increase people's problems: Muqam

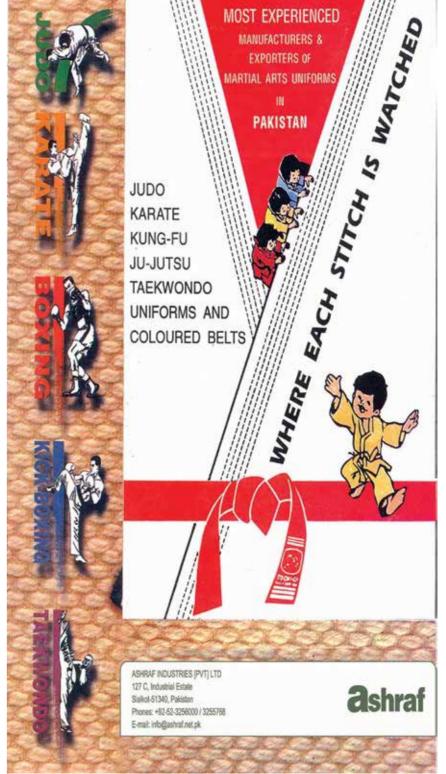
PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Monday categorically stated that the deteriorating governance and law & order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have negatively impacted the lives of people besides marred development works. He strongly indicated that if the situation does not improve in KP, the imposition of Governor Rule may be considered as a last resort for the sake of people. Addressing a press-conference here, Engr Amir Mugam, who is also the Provincial President of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, maintained that Governor Rule was a constitutional provision that would be con-

sidered as a last option if the ongoing grim situation in KP becomes uncontrollable. Expressing his deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the southern districts and merged areas of Khyber Pakthunkhwa, Engr Amir Muqam referred to the recent IED blast in Malam Jabba Swat district that resulted in the death of one policeman and injuries to four others. Mugam described the Malam Jabba blast was a deep-rooted conspiracy aimed at damaging the country's image. He accused the Chief Minister KP of focusing on agitation and leading public rallies rather than addressing governance and law and order issues in his province. Muqam claimed that for the first time, policemen in KP had been incited to protest,

making it unsafe for people to leave their homes after night, especially in southern districts and merged areas of the province. Strongly criticizing the KP government 's poor performance especially in higher education sector in the province, where about 25 public sector universities are operating without Vice Chancellors, marring education standards and research works immensely. Instead of appointing VCs, the Chief Minister KP had announced plans to sell university properties, which Muqam argued would lead to economic collapse for these cash-starved educational institutions in the province. The Federal Minister noted recent accusations of malpractices, nepotism and corruption among provincial ministers and advisers, stating

that the public now sees the Chief Minister's statements as empty slogans and is mocking it. After PTI's failed Lahore show, he claimed that the Chief Minister KP has intentionally delayed the convoy to the event, predicting similar outcomes for the upcoming planned shows of PTI in Mianwali and Rawalpindi. Engr Amir Muqam praised the people of Lahore for distancing themselves from divisive agitation and hollow slogans politics of PTI, indicating that the poor turnout at Lahore's gathering strongly reflected growing discontent of masses with PTI leadership due to their long stubbornness and rhetoric approach. He further said that the Chief Minister KP has no mandate

to negotiate directly with the Afghan government on an issue, which is the federal government's responsibility. Emphasizing the sacrifices of KP's people in combating terrorism, he reiterated their hopes for peace from the provincial government, which he criticized for failing to address terrorism effectively in the province. He also pointed out that the Chief Minister KP had not made any solid efforts to mediate a peace deal among warring tribes in Parachinar in Kurram district where people were martyred and injured in fighting on land disputes. On the Afghan refugees situation, Engr Amir Muqam said that approximately three million Afghans resided in Pakistan, including 1.4 million with POR cards.-DNA



National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept01/Libya Revolution Day

Sept01/Tanzania Defence day

Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day

Sept07/Brazil Independence Day

Sept09/DPR Korea National Day

Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day

Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day

Sept16/Mexico National Day

Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day

> Sept18/Chile National Day

Sept21/Malta Independence Day

> Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



EmergencyRescue (Police)......15



Enquiry



Hospitals

-	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666	



Departments

Depui tilicitis	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD Diplomats from the Uzbek Embassy is posing for a group photo on the occasion of launch of Sizzling Wok restaurant. CEO Waqas
Travels Waqas Ahmed and his family members also seen in the picture.— DNA

DC urge for collective efforts to reduce dengue morbidity

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema on Monday stressed for collective efforts to control dengue morbidity in the city by mutual cooperation between the health department and the citizens. He underlined the need to further accelerate the entomological surveillance and cognising the local population for adopting dengue SOPs to contain larva production. The deputy commissioner while appreciating the coordinates efforts of the health department said that the comparative analysis of the dengue statistics proved that considerable decline in positive cases

has been seen in the year 2024. Addressing to a press conference at his office along with Dr. Asif Arbab Niazi, CEO District Health Authority, Hasan Waqar reiterated the commitment to keep on focusing on the dengue endemic vigilante in Rawalpindi on the instructions of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Giving statistical details, he informed the media that 710 dengue cases have been reported in Rawalpindi in 2024, which were 859 in the previous year. He informed that 3000 cases have been registered, 1100 places have been sealed while a fine of Rs14.9 million have been imposed this year for violation of dengue SOPs. He said that compared to previous years, we have fewer

teams this year, yet the statistics of dengue activity are high. He further informed that during indoor surveillance, 40,2,33 houses were checked and larvae were recovered from 43,000 thousand houses, while 1100,000 places were checked in outdoor surveillance, in which larvae were recovered from 4,644 places. "50 clinics were sealed which were not reporting the patients regarding dengue to the concerned authorities, operation against quacksalver is also going on", he informed. The deputy commissioner while highlighting the causes of the recent dengue outbreak, said that 200 mm of rainfall was recorded in the month of August this year which led to an increase in dengue cases. He said

that 1400 teams were working on dengue surveillance. Underlining the need for joint efforts, Hassan urged the citizens to cooperate the government in defeating dengue endemic by exercising their self responsibility to take dengue preventive measures. "Citizens should provide their support, and help the government to control dengue", he said. He also urged media representatives to provide their support in raising awareness about dengue. For creating massive awareness, he added that announcements were also being made in mosques regarding dengue in high risk union councils. Moreover dengue awareness seminars, dengue walks and holding zero periods in schools were also going on, he added. Responding

to media queries, the deputy commissioner informed that the district had 300 beds capacity in allied hospitals out of which 150 beds were currently occupied.

"However, the number of beds will be increased to 1000 if necessary", he said. He clarified that there was no shortage of medicine in government hospitals for dengue patients. Work on proposals to conduct dengue tests at lower rates is also under consideration. He informed that the surveillance teams have been tasked to check the government buildings every three days, weekly certificates were being taken by all government departments regarding cleanliness and absence of larvae. "Action will be taken if larvae are found in government buildings".

Railways achieve 'improved operation ratio' with 98 trains running daily

He said that Pakistan Railways is bearing all its operating expenses including salary, fuel from its revenues except pension which is provided by federal government through annual grants in aid

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has achieved 'improved operation ratio' with an effective reform strategy, focusing on cost cutting, optimizing train loads out sourcing commercial operation of passenger, freight trains and capitalizing freight market. "At present, Pakistan Railways (PR) is running 98 daily passenger services on different routes across the country," a senior official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that the term profit or loss is related to body corporate. The profitability of any railroad is worked out on the basis of operating ratio. The official said that any railroad operating below 100 percent is considered financially viable and Pakistan Railways was able to achieve operating ratio of about 98 percent for the financial year 2023-24. He said that Pakistan Railways has skewed expense as it is running 57 percent of its passenger trains under Public Service Obligation (PSO) to cater the transportation need of masses of remote areas and thus has to absorb operating cost for all such trains. He said that Pakistan Railways role of providing public service in remote and socially marginalized regions, without matching subsidies for such services has also constraints on its financial health. Answering a question, he said the expenditure of only three heads including regular salaries, pension and operational fuel (HSD) is about 89 percent of the total expense, thus leaving only 11 percent of its total budget for utilities, repair and maintenance of its operational assets, he added. The official said that in addition, Pakistan Railways is bound to follow Federal Government pay & pension structure, adding that pension, with exponential growth is a fundamental challenge which had been adversely impacted its performance. He said that Pakistan Railways is bearing all its operating expenses including salary, fuel from its revenues except pension which is provided by federal government through annual grants in aid. In view of explained position, the Pakistan Railways cannot be considered as a loss making entity.-DNA

27,437 registered tube wells being switched to solar

ISLAMABAD: The Federal and Provincial governments of Balochistan have taken special Initiatives for solarization of 27,437 registered tube well connections in the province Official sources told APP here that they have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 08, 2024 for solarization of the agricultural tube wells. In first stage, a detailed survey along with coordinates of 581 Agri dominated feeders, was started jointly by Energy Department Government of Balochistan, QESCO teams and representatives of Zamindar Action Committee (district wise) with the help of Law Enforcing Agencies (LEAs). As per priority, survey of 50 Purely Agri-dominated feeders has been completed along with other Agri-dominated feeders and up till now survey of 64% feeders has been completed.—APP

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia symbol of strength, progress

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, said on Monday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a symbol of strength and progress around the world In a statement on the 94th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said, 'On behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this joyous occasion." "Saudi Arabia's contributions to global peace, economic development, and the preservation of Islamic heritage are recognized and appreciated worldwide" he added. He expressed special greetings to King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Speaker of Shura Council Dr. Abdullah Al-Sheikh and the nation of Saudi Arabia commending their exemplary leadership and vision. Ayaz Sadiq emphasized Saudi Arabia's vital role as the custodian of the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, expressing profound gratitude for the Kingdom's hospitality towards millions of Muslim pilgrims each year. He acknowledged the importance of this sacred responsibility, highlighting the Kingdom's commitment to ensuring a safe and enriching pilgrimage experience for all. Reflecting on Saudi Arabia's achievements over the past 94 years, the Speaker said the Kingdom contributions to socio-economic development within the region and the Muslim world are commendable. Saudi Arabia has significantly fostered growth in the region and has played a key role in unifying the Muslim Ummah, through its monumental contributions as member of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), he added. The speaker also highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, built on mutual respect, shared values, and Islamic brotherhood.-DNA

International day of Sign languages observed

ISLAMABAD: The International Day of Sign Languages is being celebrated globally on Monday to raise awareness about the importance of sign language and advocate for the cultural identity of the deaf community. The United Nations General Assembly established the day in 2018 to promote and protect the rights of people with hearing impairments. This year's theme, "Sign up for Sign Language Rights,' urges world leaders to officially recognize and promote sign language rights within their respective countries. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) has called on government officials to sign this year's theme in their national sign languages as a show of support for the deaf community. The WFD, which represents around 70 million deaf people globally through its 135 national associations, proposed the creation of the International Day of Sign Languages. The day was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf, an initiative that began in 1958 and is now recognized globally from September 24 to September 30 each year.—APP

Pak to be first parliament to recognize climate change as constitutional right

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Monday said that inclusion of climate change as a constitutional right was the landmark step in the 26th Constitutional Amendment. In addition, the 26th Amendment will play a crucial role in strengthening the judicial system, he said while speaking to a private news channel. "This will be the first parliament in the world to grant constitutional recognition to dimate change," he said. He further noted that the

amendment has been un-

fairly criticized, with its true misunderstood and the government's real misinterpreted.He intent said that work on the 26th amendment has been ongoing since March and April. Several meetings were held involving the Law Minister, Information Minister, and coalition partners to ensure broad consensus, he added. In response to a question, he said that that Maulana Fazlur Rehman requested additional time to ensure broad consultation, which was agreed upon. sultations regarding the age-related provisions are ongoing, with a final decision expected after input from the legal community and other stakeholders, he said. "This was the right approach as all stakeholders will now have a chance to provide their feedback. We expect recommendations from the legal community within a week, and after reaching a consensus with the opposition, we aim to present the amendment in the first week of October," he added.—APP

Crackdown continues against illegal vehicles, recovers over Rs 17m

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department has intensified its efforts to enforce traffic laws, with a focus on recovering taxes and regulating vehicles that violate excise regulations. Talking to APP, Director E&T department, Bilal Azam, said the department, in a significant move has launched a daily operation targeting vehicles that fail to meet legal requirements, resulting in a monthly revenue collection of over Rs 17.2 million. In its recent monthly report, the E&T department announced that the road checking staff collected Rs 17,204,676 in fines and taxes from various operations across the city. This effort is part of an ongoing campaign to ad-

dress issues such as unreg-

istered vehicles, improper number plates, tinted glass-

es, and vehicles not paying

token tax. Excise officers

been conducting

these operations daily on highways, busy markets, and key locations in Islamabad. The department's campaign aimed to ensure compliance with traffic laws and to recover unpaid taxes from defaulters, Bilal Azam said. During the past month, actions were taken against 385 vehicles using black-tinted windows, resulting in the collection of Rs 4,335,000 in fines. In addition, 461 vehicles without proper registration plates were penalized, leading to a recovery of Rs 10,540,416. The crackdown also focused on vehicles that failed to pay their token tax, with Rs 2,199,260 recovered from defaulters. Furthermore, nine vehicles were found using unauthorized police revolving lights. These lights were confiscated, and fines amounting to Rs. 130,000 were imposed.-APP

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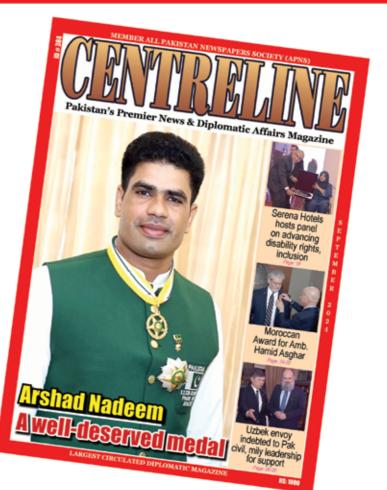
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Briefs

BISP-IFAD to explore livelihood opportunities for BISP **beneficiaries**

ISLAMABAD: The ternationally acclaimed Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have joined hands to explore avenues of cooperation for providing better livelihood opportunities to the beneficiaries of the programme. In this regard, a meeting was held between the Chairperson of BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid and National Coordinator IFAD, Ghulam Nabi Marri on Monday. The meeting explored avenues for providing livelihood opportunities through human resource training and asset transfer initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the need to boost the agricultural sector across all provinces, with a special focus on Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), particularly in the merged districts. She highlighted the importance of a strong partnership between BISP and IFAD to maximize the benefits for BISP beneficiaries. "BISP is committed to the poverty graduation of its beneficiaries. Skill training will not only improve their financial status but also enable them to contribute to the country's economy, allowing more deserving individuals to benefit from the program," stated Senator Rubina Khalid. The IFAD representatives commended BISP's extensive database and assured financial and technical support for sustainable skill training and loan programs for BISP beneficiaries. -APP

NUST, Edu ministry conduct training program for 75 coding fellows

ISLAMABAD: University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) is conducting a 5-day training program for 75 Coding Fellows in a collaboration with Ministry of Federal Education and Professiona Training, divided into two sessions of 40 fellows each. According to the Education Ministry, the objective of the project is to equip talented individuals to teach coding and AI skills to government primary school students in Islamabad, bridging the digital divide and fostering early-age tech literacy. Sharing the details of training overview, the ministry said that the focus areas of training are pedagogy for primary school students, coding fundamentals (block-based programming, Scratch), the lesson planning and delivery and classroom management. However, as per details of the expected outcomes including the trained coding fellows will teach coding skills to 1,50+ primary school students, the improved digital literacy among Islamabad's youth, enhanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills and potential pipeline for

Pak potential supplier in global kiwi fruit market

"Pakistan's kiwi industry has immense potential for growth and development. With its favorable climate, rich soil and abundant water resources, Pakistan can become a significant player in the global kiwifruit market," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shah from the University of Swabi told CEN

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is a potential supplier in global kiwifruit market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday quoting experts. According to the report, the newly concluded International Training Workshop on Kiwifruit Production in Sichuan, agricultural experts from Pakistan saw their country's potential to become an important player in the world's kiwifruit market, through collaborating with China. Meanwhile, an MoU was reached between Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resource Sciences and the University of Swabi, marking a promising beginning of Sino-Pak kiwifruit cooperation in a more in-depth form. "Pakistan's kiwi industry has im-

development. With its favorable climate, rich soil and abundant water resources, Pakistan can become a significant player in the global kiwifruit market," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shah from the University of Swabi told CEN. Further, "Pakistan's strategic location allows for easy access to markets in the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, providing a competitive edge. I am optimistic about the future of Pakistan's kiwi industry and its potential to contribute significantly to the country's economy," he added. "Pakistan's climate, especially in its northern and hilly regions, is suitable for growing kiwifruit, which requires moderate temperatures and adequate rainfall. The growing demand for kiwifruit in both local and in-

mense potential for growth and ternational markets, coupled with Pakistan's large agricultural workforce, presents a significant opportunity for the country to develop a profitable kiwifruit industry," Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq from PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi holds the same opinion. At the two-week workshop, agricultural experts from overseas countries including Pakistan, Egypt, Nepal and Mongolia acquired China's expertise in kiwifruit germplasm resource collection and protection, new variety breeding, cultivation management, pest control, postharvest storage and marketing.

"China kiwifruit technology and industry are highly advanced and impressive. The country's experience in kiwifruit production particularly in Sichuan province is remarkable. China's

success in kiwifruit cultivation, harvesting and marketing is attributed to its robust research and development, efficient irrigation systems and effective supply chain management," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shah said. Additionally, as Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq sees it, techniques such as controlled atmosphere storage, mechanized harvesting, and disease-resistant varieties are some of the advancements contributing to China's dominance in the market. According to the Pakistani experts, Chinese technologies and practices could be applicable to Pakistan with right adaptations based on Pakistan's unique climate, soil and market conditions. More specifically, China's expertise in developing resilient and climate-tolerant kiwifruit varieties may help Pakistan overcome challenges relat-

scarcity, and pest control.
"The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers a platform for both countries to collaborate on agri-

ed to climate variability, water

cultural projects, including kiwifruit cultivation. Pakistan could also benefit from Chinese markets by exporting kiwifruit once production scales up," Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq looked ahead. nder the newly signed MoU between Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resource Sciences and the University of Swabi, the two parties will work collaboratively on capacity building, educational training, organizing workshops & conferences and exchange of faculty members. Ot also aimed at initiating and launching research projects, submission of projects to donor organization, etc. in the kiwifruit industrial development and other natural resource conservation and utilization.

Fruit waste can

revive textile

industry

The physical properties of

banana fibres, such as strong

moisture absorption, natural

shine, high strength, and

minimal elongation, make them

ideal for apparel production

ISLAMABAD: A team of scientists from the National Textile

University successfully extracted fibre from banana bark and

made it usable for the textile industry, opening up new possi-

bilities for Pakistan's troubled textile sector. The team, led by

DrYasir Nawab is positive that this development has the poten-

tial to revolutionize the textile sector and bolster the struggling

economy as it transforms fruit waste into raw materials for the

production of textile fibres. Consumers' growing awareness of

ethical fashion has led to an ever-increasing demand for the

use of natural fibres in not just garments but the whole textile

industry, said Mujeebullah Khan, a team member represent-

ing the textile industry. He added that this invention would

not only save billions of dollars in foreign exchange but also re-

duce environmental pollution by extracting one million tons of

fibre from banana stems and turning them into yarn. Farmers'

lives will change as a result of using 90% of the leftover banana

crop waste to produce fertilizer and electricity. Mujeebullah

Khan informed that the team is also targeting other countries

known for banana production, with Kenya and Uganda being

the first choice. In addition to bananas, the team extracts yarn

from corn husks, other fruits, and vegetable waste. Many in-

ternational brands use this yarn, and Pakistani exporters are

also interested. Natural fibre from banana trees consists of

cellulose, lignin, and hemicelluloses. The appearance of ba-

nana ffibresis similar to bamboo and ramie ffibres but they are

known for their superior smoothness, he said. However, as

there is a growing demand for eco-friendly textile fabrics, the

significance of banana fibres is increasing. Currently, he said,

people use banana fibre to make garments, neckties, cushion

covers, tablecloths, curtains, and other items. The physical

properties of banana fibres, such as strong moisture absorp-

ISSI, HSF Pakistan to host International **Conference**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), is set to host an International Conference titled "Navigating Pakistan's Climate Action Path: Adaptation, Finance, and Technology' The Conference will be held on 26 September 2024 at1100hrs at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. The Conference aims to provide a platform for expert discourse on Pakistan's climate strategy in the lead-up to the COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, where key global discussions will centre on climate finance. During the course of Conference deliberations, academics, scholars, climate experts, and decision-makers will delve deeper into Pakistan's evolving climate strategy, focusing on three key areas: climate mitigation and adaptation strategies; global climate finance: and the challenges of green transition. The event will be attended by a cross-section of people — including representatives from the diplomatic community; academia; members of think tanks, civil society, and the media; and students.-APP

COMSTECH-Mauritania to collaborate

ISLAMABAD: TECH- the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has announced research fellowships for students, scholars and institutions in Mauritania in order to strengthen the ties and build scientific capacity in Mauritania. According to an official source, these research fellowships have been announced by the COMSTECH and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Mauritania under the Joint Science and Technology Building gram. COMSTECH shares a long-standing brotherly relationship with Mauritania and this program will further strengthen the scientific cooperation between the two countries. Under COMSTECH-Mauritania Program, Research Fellowships will be offered to young researchers and early stage scientists.-APP

Students visit parliament house



DMA

ISLAMABAD :A 21-member delegation of students and faculty from Cadet College Mastung visited Parliament House on Mon-

day. The delegation was welcomed by senior officials of the Upper House. During their visit, the delegation toured the Senate Museum and watched a documentary on the his-

tory of the Senate, said a news release. The students and faculty showed keen interest in the statues of prominent political figures and historical photographs displayed in the museum.

The delegation also toured the Senate Hall, where they were briefed by officials on the functioning of the Upper House, the legislative process, and the importance of the Senate's various functions.

Legal services platform established

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commercial legal services platform has been established to support China-Pakistan Business -to-Business B2B cooperation. The new step was marked with the inauguration of "Belt and Road" International Commercial Legal Services Demonstration Zone in Xi'an. A Pakistani delegation led by the China-Pakistan International Business Alliance participated in the signing ceremony, acknowledging the platform's role in providing critical legal protections and bolstering legal services for industrial cooperation under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The newly established legal services zone is expected to address complexities arising from the different legal systems of China and Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. While Pakistan op-

work rooted in common law traditions, influenced by European and American systems, China follows a civil law system.

The presence of an international commercial legal services platform will facilitate dispute resolution and ensure smoother business transactions. Mr. Wang Yongxin, President of China-Pakistan International Business Alliance introduced that the platform will not only serve Chinese companies operating in Pakistan but also provide legal assistance to Pakistani enterprises in China. "Previously, Pakistan and China lacked a unified standard for legal disputes, making it difficult to resolve conflicts that arise from differences in legal practices, for example, different quality inspection systems," explained Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, member of the Pakistani delegation. The new platform aims to fill this gap by providing arbitration

cepted by both countries, ensuring that disputes, particularly in trade and export contracts, can be resolved efficiently. It is learned that a team of lawyers has been put in place to provide legal services in both countries under the to-be-established commercial legal committee. "With major cities such as Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore being covered, the platform will foster a more conducive investment environment in Pakistan by mitigating risks and providing legal assurances for Chinese companies participating in CPEC projects.

Pakistani enterprises operating in China will also benefit from the platform's services, enabling them to navigate China's legal framework with greater confidence,' said Mr. Wang Yongxin. The demonstration zone will also attract international law firms, making Xi'an a hub for global legal services. With its outreach extending beyond local enterprises, the platform will cater to countries along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including those in Central Asia and Europe,

tion, natural shine, high strength, and minimal elongation, make them ideal for apparel production.-DNA

World-class Green-Tech Hub to transform Pakistan's energy into landscape: Romina

ISLAMABAD :Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has announced that the first Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) will be launched soon as an state-of-the-art facility to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reducing its carbon footprints by fostering green technologies, renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country.

Addressing a webinar on 'Creation of G-TH' as a chief guest, organised by the Paklaunch.com in collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, the PM's coordinator further said that the G-TH, an initiative backed by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with private sector stakeholders, academic institutions, and international green technology leaders, aims to position the country as a regional leader

according to a press statement issued on Monday. During her address, she also revealed that efforts are also being made by the climate change & environmental coordination ministry to showcase highly innovative and impactful projects at the Pakistan Pavilion during the two-week UN-led global climate summit (COP29). The climate summit is scheduled to begin from Nov. 11 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is expected be attended by 40,000 to 50,000 delegations from over 192 countries. "Showcasing the initiatives at the upcoming UN-led global climate conference aims to attract potential global and local investors to finance the projects to help Pakistan achieve its environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals," Romina Khurshid Alam said. The global leaders at this year's

in sustainable innovation,

annual global climate conference, which is the second largest gathering of head of states, international leaders and civil society members after UN General Assembly (UNGA), will strive to finalise the first enhanced transparency framework and establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, among other critical issues of adaptation, mitigation, transfer of technology and technical knowhow. "We hope GTH would act as a strategic connector, linking Pakistani innovators around the globe with global investors to leverage climate finance for these innovative projects showcased at the Pakistan Pavilion during the COP29 meeting and attract international, local investments for these climate resilience projects. Besides, MoCC&EC would facilitate alignment of these climate tech projects with Pakistan's

both adaptation and mitigation priorities," Romina Khurshid Remarked. She emphasised that the future of technology is green, and the G-TH would represent the best of what Pakistan has to offer in terms of talent, ambition, and innovation. "We are proud to be part of this journey and look forward to seeing the breakthroughs that emerge from this center in future," The PM's coordinator remarked. Ms Alam said, "The hub will serve as an incubator for green startups, a research center for advanced technologies, and a collaboration space for innovators and entrepreneurs focused on addressing environmental challenges." "Pakistan is committed to combating climate change, and the G-TH is a significant step forward in that effort. This hub will not only drive technological advancement through innovation.-APP



BRICS casting a wider net

RAN'S proposal at the BRICS high-ranking security officials summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, on September 11 not only addresses the misuse of advanced technology but also takes a brave stand against the poorly managed conflicts of terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, and people trafficking. The BRICS demonstrates an expansion beyond economic matters and a broader vision for multilateral cooperation by holding a conference on security for the first time. The meeting in St. Petersburg strived to address the shared security concern in the face of rising security threats and risks emanating from the lopsided use of the latest technologies. While addressing the conference, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, suggested the formation of a "BRICS Security Commission" to investigate the major threats related to the misuse of alternate intelligence (AI) technology, maritime security, cyber threats, illegal biological threats, and satellite warfare to secure the interests of the BRICS community. In the same vein, the US is pulling out all the stops to counter the sway of China and Russia, aiming to keep its edge sharp in military artificial intelligence (AI) and other tech arenas. It also throws its weight behind its leading technology firms around the world to safeguard their interests. When it comes to key technologies, it shuts the door on other countries, keeping a watchful eye on critical investments in the tech sector. To avoid security pitfalls and lock down the vital supply chains, the US puts the brakes on exports and even throws up roadblocks with embargoes on sensitive technologies. Iran's proposals at the conference also addressed the issue of illegal biological threats. The threat is defined as the misuse of biological agents for harmful purposes, including the development and deployment of biological weapons. These threats stem from illicit access to biological materials, such as pathogens, and may include the potential for bioterrorism or other forms of biological warfare. A collaborative approach under the BRICS umbrella can enhance detection capabilities, both domestically and globally, which is crucial for mitigating these threats. Putin revealed that Russia eagerly awaits the arrival of Iranian President Pezeshkian in Russia, where they plan to sign a bilateral comprehensive cooperation agreement. Russia's President also highlighted the International North-South Transport Corridor, underscoring Moscow's unwavering support for Iran's involvement in the transportation route and the project's high priority for both countries. In his inaugural speech at the conference, Putin stated that the security meeting marked a critical phase in the run for the BRICS summit, set to take place in Kazan, Russia, on October 22-24. He stated that they intend to engage in a comprehensive discussion regarding the future expansion of the comprehensive partnership among BRICS member countries and finalize a package of agreements that encompass a variety of sectors and areas of cooperation. Putin disclosed that the forthcoming BRICS summit meeting will authorize the seamless assimilation of new member countries into the BRICS ambit, stating that, at present, more than 34 countries have expressed their interest in joining the association and participating in its activities. "Consequently, we have initiated substantive discussions with all BRICS participants regarding the framework for a new category of partner states, set for approval in Kazan," he said.

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Unlocking Africa's potential

S the world continues to wrestle with unprecedented global challenges, Africa's development has become a focal point for international cooperation. While collaboration between Africa and China has made significant strides in recent decades, it is now time for a more inclusive approach to empowering the African continent. The recent Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit highlighted the strength of their relations, with China announcing a 10-point action plan to deepen its partnership with Africa. However, to truly unlock Africa's potential, we must now expand this cooperation to more global partners, leveraging the strengths and resources of a wider range of nations and institutions. Despite the geographical distance between China and Africa, the friendship between the two has a deep and enduring history. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China has extended broad support to African countries. The Tanzania-Zambia Railway, built in the early 1970s, stands out as a significant example of this early cooperation - a project in which my father proudly participated. Over the years, collaboration between China and Africa has transitioned beyond infrastructure to supporting African countries working to reach their national development goals. The focus has expanded to sustainable, high-quality development, including green programmes. Since 2021, China has participated in more than 120 climate projects in Africa. Also, to ensure the continued implementation of these programmes, as of the end of 2019, China had deployed peacekeeping forces or observers to at least four African regions, reflecting a commitment to the continent's stability and growth. Africa, a continent with the world's youngest population and largest number of developing countries, boasts abundant labour and rich natural resources. However, historical factors such as colonial rule have impeded Africa's economic development. Zambia opens memorial for Chinese railway workers who died building Africa's Tazara line As the world's largest developing economy, China has engaged in broad cooperation with Africa. Now, to fully unleash Africa's development potential and address its challenges, the participation of a broader segment of the international community is needed. As a result, despite widespread recognition of Africa's global importance and development potential among Western countries, the sometimes conflicting approaches and political undertones in their strategies may hinder effective cooperation and lead to inefficient resource allocation. To truly drive African development, it is crucial for all parties involved to prioritise Africa's actual needs and foster genuine collaboration over competition. Fortunately, some Western countries are gradually adopting a more open attitude towards foreign aid, viewing China's development projects in Africa more favourably and engaging in active collaboration. This growing willingness to cooperate marks a positive step towards more coordinated aid efforts that can better address Africa's developmental challenges. For instance, China is exploring third-party cooperation with France, encouraging companies from both countries to jointly participate in projects.

Next peace support mission for Somalia (AUSSOM) is under prerogative of the government of Somalia

Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim



That someone woke up one day in the morning and start yelling out "the way to the access of the red sea"? threatening to get access to the sea either by peace or by..? was astonishing. However, again, with disregard to every respected law and norms exist either to be international or regional that, Addis Ababa, deliberately chose to sign an illegal MoU, with Somaliland, a secessionist region of Somalia, which allegedly...

that has no border, nationality, and religion; therefore, the global counterterrorism efforts require a holistic approach to overcoming. Al-Qaida affiliated terrorist group of Al-Shabaab established a secret stronghold bases in Somalia due to absence of capable government and a period of political and security crises in the country, therefore the government of Somalia called for the international community to support reinforcement troops to counter the enemy. African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have done a brilliant work in counteringterrorist groups in Somalia and protection of the main sites of the government. Under their mission the militia has been militarily weakened, stopped from expansion, dislodged many strategic locations controlled by these ruthless militia groups etc. Later, under the security council resolution 2628 the mission's name was relocated into African Union transition mission troops in Somalia (ATMIS), given a clear mandate of to further accelerate the fight against terrorist group Al-Shabaab, and to implement the scheduled components of the Somali Transitional Plan (STP) within the set time frame period. Ethiopia, like other troop contributing member states, did come into Somalia territory with an official mandate of the Government of Somalia to join the fight against the terrorist groups, Al-Shabab and Al-Qaida. Being a proactive member in both AMISOM, ATMIS missions, Ethiopians didn't bring a miracle as terrorists not completely uprooted, due to one way or another, however, Ethiopia's contribution towards counterterrorism mission was valuable and deserves to be upheld.

Meanwhile, it is also a quite important to highlighted that the security situation in Somalia, is almost in a right direction as the entire country is quite safe and stable. Government institutions are efficiently transforming, fit to undertakethe national security; Federal member states, on their turn, duly control their jurisdictions chasing terrorists' elements in the remote bushy areas. Somali National Army (SNA) is, fully restructured, trained, and alert to confront the country's external and internal enemy. Army embargo that was obstacle to the country's defense mechanism for decades have been lifted. The government is now able to equip its army with sophisticated army. large areas in the south and central of the country liberated from the enemy and returned to under the control of the government, all these milestones is achieved byeffort of Somalia National Army with the assistance of the

AMISOM troops. The Somali Army is in full recovery, showed resilient and ready to take over the country's security from our brotherly AMISOM troops who contributed much to the security of Somalia. As for the transitioning from ATMIS of the next peace Support Mission. Somalia, as hosting country has a full right to determine which country troops will join and which not. Somalia, indeed, indebted, to the brotherly African countries whose troops sacrificed in restoring peace and security into Somalia, nevertheless, the composition of the next support troops (AUSSOM) is the sole prerogative of the Federal Government of Somalia, it isn't sharing, nor negotiable matter, and that should be clear to anyone concerned. Thissupport Mission will be based on inline to the national security priorities; thus, in consultation withconcerned governmentpartners and allays, the choice will be clear.

As, Ethiopia, I think it fair enough if conditioned to abstain the aggression and immediately revoke the illegal MoU signed with the self-breakaway region of Somalia, which was unacceptable violation and insult to the sovereignty of the country. So it's a pure logic that you cannot support someone that you are, on the other hand, an enemy to him. Moreover, the recent arise comedy like story called "to where is the way to access to the red sea", that a neighboring country has been spelling out repeatedly, with no legal argument base seemed to be a beginning of an orchestrated new form of proxy crisis aimed to disrupt the delicate peace and security of the Horn of Africa region. A region that has already been staggering with its multiple odd complications on the ground such as, internal conflicts, terrorism, poverty, droughts, contagious diseases, natural disasters, external interference, regional competitions, etc.

That someone woke up one day in the morning and start velling out "the way to the access of the red sea"? threatening to get access to the sea either by peace or by..? was astonishing. However, again, with disregard to every respected law and norms exist either to be international or regional that, Addis Ababa, deliberately chose to sign an illegal MoU, with Somaliland, a secessionist region of Somalia, which allegedly granta 20km of maritime lease base to Addis Ababa in the coast of Somalia, deeply shocked the whole world. This reminds me a Somali idiomword which says "kuqabsokuqadimayside" meaning, "hold on to it, you won't be deprived" and Ethiopian's intention is that.

This illegal MoU triggered the ongoing tension and dispute between the two countries, posing uncertainty to the stabil-

ity of the region. Mogadishu and Addis Ababa have a lot of other positive avenues to work with and cooperate to each other, rather than choosing hostile and unproductive dark and narrow corridor. The two neighboring countrieshad had unpleasant history of grudges and enmity, therefore, such a reckless action, can only revitalize and irritate the healed bruises and wounds in the past, and diverts the attention from the joint combat against the common enemy, terrorist groups al-Shabaab, to eliminate from the region. Aligning to the strategic significance and the geopolitical and geoeconomics dynamic of the region, the intertwisted geopolitical competition and challenges, sensitivity within the region or beyond, Ethiopia's unwarranted act, seems to be as a foreign agenda. Obviously, Its beyond regional agenda, aimed to destabilize the region and Addis Ababa, acts as an agent implementing this unlawful project in the region. "If the way to sea can be found and reached out to such that simple, "just I want" it won't have remained there for that good centuries ong. In that case, our brothers should know that "the road to the access the red sea is blocked and barriered", and there no way to that side, that it must be returned. The sea belongs to the people of Somalia and can only be accessed with the permission of the Federal Government of Somalia, based on the international laws, bilateral and through the UN convention on the law of sea (UNCLOS). So, anything less than that could be waste of time and only increase an avoidable enmity and destruction to the region. Addis Ababa, has a handful of its own internal problems, that needs to be addressed, instead of meddling internal issues of a sovereign nation.

The two counties share a common destiny, therefore the problem of one side effects the other, and, in that case, our prayer and best wishes is to Ethiopia, to maintain peace, harmony, and better future. In conclusion, I wish to emphasize, there is number of friendly countries who are agitated Ethiopia's blatant aggression is trying to find a solution for this conflict with peace, non of them requested by the government of Somalia, however, the ongoing negotiation process led by the Government of Turkey is a huge opportunity. Somalia joined to the negotiation table, while it has every right not show up, therefore, we look forward, Addis Ababa will double think and come to that table with an open-minded agenda to move forward towards resolution of the conflict.

> - Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim (Ambassador). The Charge de' Affairs of the Embassy of the Federal Republic in Islamabad.

AUKUS and the global balance of power

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Economic and Technological Dimensions of AUKUS: While AUKUS is primarily framed as a military alliance, its economic implications cannot be understated

THE trilateral security partnership between the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia commonly referred to as AUKUS represents one of the most strategically significant alliances in contemporary global politics. Initially formed in 2021, AUKUS symbolizes a deepening military and strategic collaboration among these three Anglophone powers. In 2024, its growing relevance reflects the shifting dynamics of global security, technological competition and geopolitical contestation, particularly in relation to China's rising influence

Historical and Cultural Foundations of AUKUS: AUKUS can be understood not only as a reaction to present-day strategic imperatives but also as a product of long-standing historical, cultural and political affinities. The United States, the United Kingdom and Australia share a unique history of collaboration, especially during both World Wars. As former members of the British Empire, the U.K. and Australia has cultural, legal and political systems deeply influenced by British governance, while the U.S., though independent since the 18th century, remains culturally connected to the U.K. These shared experiences in wartime and peacetime have cultivated deep trust and cooperation. The historical roots of AUKUS are closely tied to the Five Eyes alliance, an intelligence-sharing agreement established after World War II between the

U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada and New Zealand. This partnership was born out of the necessity of sharing critical intelligence during the Cold War. Over time, it has evolved into one of the most significant intelligence-sharing arrangements in the world. AUKUS, while not identical to the Five Eyes, reflects similar principles of trust, shared values and mutual security concerns. Winston Churchill's conception of the "English-Speaking Peoples" in his historical writings also resonates with the formation of these partnerships, celebrating the cultural and political cohesion among these nations. The essence of AUKUS, like the Five Eyes, lies in the mutual trust among its members. Not only shared strategic interests but also a commonality in political ideologies, legal systems and economic models bind each country in this alliance. These alignments go beyond military cooperation and extend into areas like trade, education, technology and innovation.

Strategic Rationale behind AUKUS: At the core of AUK-US lies its strategic objective: countering Chinese growing influence, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. China's expansion of its naval capabilities and its aggressive stance in territorial disputes, particularly in the South China Sea, have raised alarms among Western powers. AUKUS was initially presented as a framework for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, a move seen as essential to maintaining a balance of power in the Pacific Ocean. However, the partnership has expanded beyond this singular purpose. The acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines will significantly enhance Australia's naval capabilities. These submarines can remain submerged for longer periods and have greater range and speed than conventional submarines, making them invaluable in deterring Chinese naval ambitions. Furthermore, the introduction of advanced nuclear technology into Australia's defense system marks a substantial escalation in its military capacity, ensuring that it can more effectively contribute to the security architecture of the Indo-Pacific region. Beyond submarines, AUKUS is designed to foster greater cooperation in critical areas such as intelligence sharing, cybersecurity, quantum computing, artificial intelligence and the development of advanced weapons systems. By aligning their technological development, AUKUS members are positioning themselves to outpace China in key areas of strategic competition. This is a significant development in 2024, as technological superiority increasingly defines the balance of power in global politics. Maritime Power and Strategic Interests: AUKUS is fundamentally a maritime alliance, reflecting the shared geographical characteristics of its members, all of which are maritime powers. Historically, the dominance of the seas has been crucial to the security and economic prosperity of these nations. The U.K.'s rise as a global superpower in the 18th and 19th centuries was built on its naval superiority and the U.S. assumed that role in the 20th century, especially after World War II. Australia, while smaller in comparison, occupies a critical geographical position, acting as a key player in the security dynamics of the Indo-Pacific. Maritime security is the focal point of AUKUS's strategic objectives, as control of the world's oceans is vital for both economic and military reasons. Nearly 90% of global trade is conducted via sea routes and controlling key maritime chokepoints ensures both economic and strategic advantages. The Indo-Pacific region, in particular, is home to some of the world's busiest sea-lanes, making it a critical area for global trade. For the U.S., U.K. and Australia, ensuring the security of these sea-lanes against potential threats posed by China's increasingly assertive naval activities is of paramount importance. Furthermore, AUKUS reflects the understanding that the next significant global conflict, should it arise, will likely involve naval warfare. While the Atlantic Ocean has been relatively peaceful in recent years, the Pacific has emerged as a zone of contention. The expansion of China's naval capabilities, coupled with its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which includes significant maritime components, is viewed as a direct challenge to the current

maritime order dominated by Western powers The Economic and Technological Dimensions of AUKUS: While AUKUS is primarily framed as a military alliance, its economic implications cannot be understated. The combined economic output of the U.S., U.K. and Australia represents a substantial portion of global GDP, making the alliance a powerful economic bloc in its own right. In 2024, AUKUS is poised to leverage this economic might to challenge China, particularly as Beijing faces internal economic instability. As China's growth slows and its economy becomes more vulnerable to external pressures, AUKUS's members are likely to exploit this weakness through coordinated economic strategies. One of the key areas where AUKUS's economic and technological strategies will converge is in the development of advanced technologies. In particular, the alliance is focusing on artificial intelligence, quantum computing and cybersecurity. These technologies are not only critical to future military capabilities but also have broader economic applications. The joint development of these technologies by AUKUS members ensures that they can maintain a competitive edge over China in the rapidly evolving technological landscape. In addition to military technologies, AUKUS is expected to foster greater cooperation in critical infrastructure, such as undersea cables, which carry the vast majority of global internet traffic. Ensuring the security of these cables is essential to maintaining the integrity of global communications systems and AUKUS will likely prioritize this in its strategic agenda.

AUKUS and Global Security: In 2024, AUKUS is set to become one of the most consequential alliances in global security. Its members recognize that any existential threat they face will likely come from the sea, whether in the Pacific, the Atlantic, or other critical maritime regions. As islands-or in the case of the U.S., a de facto island surrounded by vast oceans these nations must prioritize naval security to protect their sovereignty and economic interests. The importance of naval power in modern geopolitics cannot be overstated. With China's increasing presence in the Pacific, AUKUS serves as a counterbalance, preventing Beijing from dominating key maritime regions.

The partnership also sends a clear signal to other countries in the region, particularly Japan, South Korea and the Southeast Asian nations, that the Western powers are committed to maintaining a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. At the same time, AUKUS is also preparing for potential challenges in the Atlantic. While the Atlantic is currently peaceful, its strategic importance remains high. The possibility of future conflicts, particularly involving Russia or other emerging powers, cannot be dismissed. AUKUS's members are keenly aware of the lessons of history, where control of the Atlantic played a decisive role in both World Wars. As such, the alliance is positioning itself to respond to any threats that may arise in this critical region

Potential Challenges and Expansions: No alliance is without its challenges and AUKUS is no exception. While the U.S., U.K. and Australia share many common interests, there are also potential points of divergence. For example, economic pressures, domestic political considerations and differing approaches to China could create friction within the alliance. However, these tensions are unlikely to undermine the overall cohesion of AUKUS, as its members recognize the broader strategic imperative of containing China's influence. Looking ahead, there is potential for AUKUS to expand beyond its current membership.

New Zealand, which shares many of the same values and strategic concerns as the other members, is a likely candidate to join the alliance. Canada, another Five Eyes member, is also considering deeper involvement. If these countries were to join, AUKUS would become an even more formidable global force, encompassing the entirety of the Five Eyes and solidifying its position as a premier alliance in both military and economic terms.

AUKUS represents a powerful and evolving trilateral security partnership that reflects the shifting dynamics of global security in 2024. With its roots in historical alliances like the Five Eyes, AUKUS embodies the strategic, cultural and political bonds between the U.S., U.K. and Australia. Its primary focus on maritime security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, positions it as a critical counterbalance to China's growing influence in the region. At the same time, the economic and technological dimensions of AUKUS ensure that it will play a significant role in shaping the future of global power dynamics. As the alliance continues to evolve, potentially expanding to include New Zealand and Canada, AUKUS is poised to become one of the most consequential security partnerships in the 21st century.

Imran

denies having any

links ...

FROM PAGE 01 the potential impact he or a similar leader could have

on Pakistan's foreign policy, particularly in relation

to Israel. However, Khan

was quick to clarify that his

position on Israel remains

firmly pro-Palestinian. "My

stance on Israel has not

changed. The Palestinian

people are enduring geno-

cide. Any discussions with

Israel are contingent upon

a ceasefire and a genuine

commitment to a two-state

solution," Khan asserted.

He accused his political op-

ponents of misinterpreting

the article to undermine

his credibility. Khan's re-

marks come against the

backdrop of a volatile po-

litical environment in Paki-

stan. Responding to Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif's

recent appeal for unity and

cooperation to steer the

country towards develop-

ment, Khan offered a sharp

rebuke. "Shehbaz Sharif,

listen carefully: peace is

a by-product of justice,"

Khan declared. "The elec-

Briefs

Justice Shah voices objections to Practice...

From Page 01 The ordinance also gave the CJP authority to assign cases. Justice Mansoor. in his letter, noted that no reasons were given as to why the second senior most judge, Justice Akhtar, was removed from the composition of the Committee. "Furthermore, no reasons were given why the next senior most judge was ignored and instead, the fourth senior most judge was nominated as a member of the Committee." "Such unfortunate cherry picking and undemocratic display of one-man show are precisely what the Act tried to discourage and replace-a stance that was upheld by the Full Court Bench of this Court in Raja Amer," he wrote.

Pakistan committed to enhance...

From Page 01 Mohammed bin Salman and the significant progress achieved by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He remarked that the bold initiatives taken by the Crown Prince would propel the country towards greater progress and prosperity. The President wished Saudi Arabia continued success on this transformative journey The President expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continued support to Pakistan and as well as hosting nearly 2.7 million Pakistanis, who are making contributions to the Kingdom's social and development. The President expressed confidence that the bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations would continue to further strengthen in the years to come. He emphasized that both countries would work together for the advancement of their nations, the unity of the Muslim Ummah, and the promotion of peace and stability in the

PM Shehbaz felicitates Saudi Arabia

From Page 01 PM Shehbaz said the Kingdom was playing a leading role in the developing world in business, technology, economy and other fields. "Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed historic relations based on religious and cultural values and both countries supported each other through tough times," he said. The prime minister added that the entire Pakistani nation was grateful for Saudi Arabia's support in the recent stabilisation of Pakistan's economy and expressed the hope that both countries would continue to enjoy cordial ties in the future as well. Mean-Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Saudi Embassy to mark the special occasion in the diplomatic enclave. He was received by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Maliki on his arrival.

Gohar urges political space for PTI

From Page 01 destabilise the country. "If the most popular party is not given space, non-political forces will gain the advantage," Gohar warned, urging the authorities to reconsider their stance. He also highlighted that had consistently sought necessary permissions for its rallies, but restrictions were often imposed, making it difficult to conduct events. "This is not a film shoot where you can allot time slots," he remarked, adding that despite the limitations, PTI adhered to its schedule. The PTI chairman noted that while Punjab and Sindh leadership were able to attend the rally, leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were prevented due to roadblocks. He reiterated the party's support for Ali Amin Gandapur and criticised recent amendments, which he claimed served only the interests of a few.

Erling Haaland equals Ronaldo's 13-year record

Etihad Stadium has become Haaland's fortress, with prodigy already amassing 70 goal involvements in just 51 matches

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: John Stones' 98th-minute equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw for Manchester City against 10-man Arsenal in a bad-tempered clash between the two favourites for the Premier League title on Sunday. Arsenal played the entire second half a man down after Leandro Trossard was sent off but were seconds away from inflicting City's first home defeat since November 2022. "We have that belief we can win any game and never stop fighting," said Stones. A draw was enough for City to retake top spot, two points clear of Arsenal in fourth. ErlingHaaland's 100th City goal had given Pep Guardiola's men the perfect start. Arsenal turned the game around thanks to Riccardo Calafiori's wonder strike and another set-piece header from Gabriel Magalhaes. The Gunners lost Trossard for a second booking just before half-time. However, Mikel Arteta's men produced a

stunning rearguard action to hold out until the final seconds when Stones bundled in after Arsenal failed to clear a corner. "It is a miracle we played 56 minutes at the

"It is a miracle we played 56 minutes at the Etihad with 10 men (and didn't lose). It is unbelievable what we have done," said Arteta. "They have made another big step today as a team and individuals." The powder keg for an explosive encounter was lit with-



in the first few seconds when Kai Havertz charged into Rodri to leave the Spaniard needing treatment. Guardiola said City had been handed an advantage by having an extra day's rest and not travelling for their Champions League draw with Inter Milan on Wednesday. Arsenal, by contrast, were in Italy on Thursday for their 0-0 stalemate against Atalanta. City burst out of the traps to try and make their fresher legs count and got an early reward. Haaland had not even managed a single shot on target in the two league meetings between the sides last

season as Arsenal kept two clean sheets against the champions. But the Norwegian is in unstoppable form and took just nine minutes to score his 10th goal of the season and bring up his century in 105 games for City. Savinho's through ball split the Arsenal defence and Haaland coolly prodded past the onrushing David Raya.

But City's momentum was interrupted when Rodri was forced off in some distress with a knee injury. Just seconds after he was replaced by Mateo Kovacic, Arsenal levelled in stunning fashion. Calafiori was

picked out by Gabriel Martinelli at the edge of the box and the Italian defender curled a brilliant effort beyond Ederson for his first Gunners goal. Gabriel scored the winner in Arsenal's 1-0 win at Tottenham in the north London derby last weekend. And City were also unable to cope with the Brazilian's power at set-pieces. Guardiola's men got away with a warning when Gabriel headed over his first big opportunity from a Bukayo Saka corner. The Arsenal centre-back was not so forgiving with his second chance as he shrugged off Kyle Walker to nod in another inviting delivery from Saka. Yet there was another huge momentum swing just before half-time when Trossard saw red. The Belgian was shown a second vellow for kicking the ball away after committing a foul. Arsenal dropped two points in a 1-1 draw with Brighton after Declan Rice did likewise just three weeks ago and they suffered a similar fate in heartbreaking fashion. Arteta responded by introducing an extra defender in Ben White for Saka as the visitors set up camp in their own box to repel wave upon wave of City attack. Raya was called upon to save a powerful downward header by Haaland. But Arsenal largely restricted City to potshots from distance by their centre-backs as Rava twice denied JoskoGvardiol. It was another City defender who finally got what could be a defining

Injured Emma Raducanu withdraws from Beijing Open

SPORTS DESK

BEIJING: Emma Raducanu has pulled out of this week's China Open in Beijing because of a foot injury. The 21-year-old Briton had to retire injured from her Korea Open quarter-final in Seoul on Saturday because of the issue. Raducanu's name appeared in the Beijing draw when it was released on Monday before she withdrew shortly afterwards. "I sprained some ligaments in my foot which unfortunately need some more time to heal," she wrote on X. "It means I can't play in Beijing but I hope to be

in my foot which unfortunately need some more time to heal," she wrote on X. "It means I can't play in Beijing but I hope to be back competing as soon as I can." The world number 54 was due to face a qualifier in the first round, with Chinese fifth seed Zheng Qinwen potentially waiting in the next round. In Seoul, Raducanu took a medical timeout after five games against Russia's Daria Kasatkina and decided to stop



after losing the opening set. The British number two, who famously won the 2021 US Open as a teenage qualifier, is next scheduled to play in Wuhan, China on 7 October. After beating Yue Yuan in the last 16 in Korea, Raducanu said she had been "nursing a few nig-

gles" in the past couple of months but added she had more "trust" in her body. "Tve been working hard - especially at the start of the year and the mid part of the year - physically," said Raducanu, whose highest ever world ranking is 10th. Raducanu missed the bulk

of last season after needing surgery on both wrists and her left ankle, returning at the start of this year and making a steady climb back up the rankings. Winning two matches in Seoul against American Peyton Stearns and China's Yue both ranked higher - has moved her back on the verge of the world's top 50. It is Raducanu's highest position since August 2022 when the points from her New York triumph were wiped off. Raducanu has played 33 matches on the WTA Tour this season, which is three short of her tally in 2022 - the most she has played in a single season. The Korea Open was her first tournament since losing in the first round of US Open on 28 August. Raducanu played just one tournament between Wimbledon in July and the US Open, saying afterwards in a tearful news conference

it was a "lesson to learn"

about her scheduling.

SC backs PTI bid...

goal in the title race come May.

From Page 01 Elaborating on a party's eligibility to contest the polls, the detailed judgment stresses that the lack of an electoral symbol does not affect its constitutional right to take part in elections. "The Constitution and the law do not prevent any political party from fielding candidates," the order says while referring to the ECP's decision which had revoked the PTI's "bat" symbol over apparent irregularities in its intra-party polls. The PTI is a political party and won seats in the national and provincial legislatures in the general elections, the court remarked, while directing the country's top electoral body to notify the former ruling party's members on the reserved seats. "The ECP's March 1 decision is contradictory to the Constitution and has no legal value." the apex court said while referring to the body's decision wherein it had declined the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea for allocation of reserved seats and had instead decided to give them to other political parties on the principle of proportional representation. Additionally, the court also declared the returning officers' (ROs) act of mentioning PTI candidates as independent candidates in Form-33 "unconstitutional and unlawful". Today's detailed judgment also accentuated the electoral body's failure to fulfil its role as a fundamental "guarantor institution" of democratic processes. "The Commission must therefore fully recognise its constitutional position and the critical role it plays in a democracy while performing its duty to conduct free and fair elections. As a central pillar of democratic electoral processes, the Commission, in its role as a guarantor institution and impartial steward, is tasked with ensuring the transparency and fairness of elections to maintain public trust in the electoral system," reads the order. Furthermore, Justice Shah's verdict points out that the top court was "surprised" how the ECP behaved as a "primary contesting party against SIC and PTI". "The function performed by the Commission in the present case was, therefore, quasi-judicial," it said.

tions were blatantly rigged, PTI workers were thrown in jail after the May 9 events, and yet no serious investigations are underway. Without justice, there can be no peace." Khan also took aim at proposed constitutional ments, warning that they would further erode peace and stability. He accused the chief justice and chief election commissioner of overstepping their roles, likening them to "umpires who are also opening batsmen," suggesting that the judiciary and election authorities are not impartial. "The third umpire, who is essentially the captain of their team, is orchestrating everything from behind the scenes," Khan alleged, al-

luding to what he perceives as covert manipulation of the political process. He expressed grave concerns over the alleged electoral fraud and the withholding of CCTV footage from the May 9 events, which he believes is being used to protect the establishment. Drawing parallels with the regime of General Yahya Khan, Khan accused the stroying democracy and societal fabric to cover up malpractices. electoral "This group is leading the country towards a crisis similar to that of Yahya Khan's era. Economic instability is increasing, debt is piling up, and investors are reluctant to engage. People are leaving the country in droves," Khan warned. Despite the obstacles, including delayed

'Parliament's rights can't be snatched'

rally permissions, mass arrests of PTI supporters,

and administrative hurdles,

Khan boasted about his

party's ability to mobilise

massive crowds. He cited

the example of a recent

rally in Lahore, where per-

missions were granted only

a day before the event, yet

his supporters turned out

in large numbers, despite

the placement of contain-

ers to block access.

From Page 01 and decisions must be made according to law, Malik Ahmad stated. Speaker added that the law had mandated how the Parliament, the Election Commission and Supreme Court must work in their jurisdiction. "We must play our role to strengthen the Parliament and constitution," the speaker stressed. The Punjab Assembly speaker reiterated that the National Assembly passed the new act in the wake of issues related to party affiliation and floor crossing. He demanded opposition including Maulana Fazlur Rehman and his party to play its pivotal role for protection of the constitution and national interests, saying dialogue was a resolution of every issue.

Parliament is supreme...

FROM PAGE 01 of an independent candidate could not be changed after joining a party. He maintained that the detailed decision did not explain how the seats would be distributed while adding it was really disturbing to witness harsh words use for judges who wrote dissenting note.

Friedkin Group agrees deal to buy Everton

LONDON: The Friedkin Group has reached an agreement to buy FarhadMoshiri's majority 94% stake in Everton. The deal is subject to regulatory approval from the Premier League, the Football Association and the Financial Conduct Authority. A spokesperson for The Friedkin Group said in a statement on Monday: "We are pleased to have reached an agreement to become custodians of this iconic football club. We are focused on securing the necessary approvals to complete the transaction. "We look forward to providing stability to the club and sharing our vision for its future, including the completion of the new Everton Stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock." The Friedkin Group had agreed a deal in principle to purchase current owner Moshiri's 94% stake in June. But talks were called off a month later after the two parties failed to finalise an agreement. That followed Miami-based 777 Partners being unable to a complete a deal earlier this year. Chairman Dan Friedkin, who also owns Serie A side Roma, has a net worth of £5.7bn according to Forbes., external In a complex saga surrounding the takeover, American businessman and Crystal Palace owner John Textor then jumped in for talks but could not complete a deal because Premier League rules prohibit individuals from owning more than one team. - Agencies

Pakistan Cricket Board holds successful connection camp

PCB COO Salman Naseer described the camp as timely, considering the busy season ahead

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) organised a "Connection Camp" on Monday to enhance communication, collaboration, and performance among the national cricket team members. PCB's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Salman Naseer, described the camp as timely, considering the busy season ahead for the team. "We have a hectic schedule, and it was the right moment to sit together and discuss matters," said Naseer. He added that everyone recognises the need for improved performance and that the camp provided an opportunity to address these challenges. Gary Kirsten, the white-ball coach for the Pakistan team, praised the initiative, calling it a great success. 'The connection camp was brilliant. We spoke about supporting each other, and I believe we've largely achieved the purpose of this gathering. Everyone has shown real commitment to restore the pride of Pakistan cricket," Kirsten remarked. Jason Gillespie, the red-ball coach involved in the camp, echoed Kirsten's sentiments, highlighting the importance of fostering a stronger bond within the team. "It was a wonderful opportunity to sit down together. We need to connect with each other, and this was the right time to do so," Gillespie stated. The day-long session included eight top cricketers: Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan, SaimAyub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shadab Khan and Shan Masood. Remember, the main goal of the camp was to create a shared vision and mission for Pakistan cricket and to set a clear path for restoring the pride and excellence associated with the team since they achieved Test status in 1952. This initiative also aimed to inspire young cricketers by having the senior players take on leadership roles, setting an example through their performances on and off the field. - DNA

Lewandowski lead Barcelona to thump Villarreal

Villarreal goalkeeper Diego Conde did well to keep out a bundled effort from the Polish striker but Lewandowski pounced after 35 minutes for his second

MADRID: Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha struck twice each as Barcelona romped to a 5-1 win at Villarreal on Sunday in a wild match to maintain their perfect start to La Liga. The leaders' sixth straight league triumph was marred by a potentially serious knee injury to goalkeeper Marc-Andre terStegen, who was taken off on a stretcher. Lewandowski netted Barcelona's first two goals and later missed a penalty in a thoroughly entertaining battle on Spain's east coast at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica. Ayoze Perez pulled his team back into the game shortly before half-time and the hosts had two goals disallowed, with Pablo Torre and Raphinha's strikes cement-

After second-placed Real Madrid thrashed Espanyol 4-1 on Saturday the Catalans were able to restore a four-point lead on the champions. "It's very important for us that we played a game away from home, we scored five goals and in the end we have three points," said Lewandowski. "In the end, it doesn't matter how, as long as we win that's perfect." Flick gave Eric Garcia another start in defensive midfield despite his early red card against Monaco in the Champions League midweek. The German

coach also started reserve team players Gerard Martin and Sergi Dominguez, as well as playmaker Torre in place of the injured Dani Olmo. Teenage star Lamine Yamal hit the post early on before Lewandowski slotted home in the 20th minute after Torre slipped him in. Villarreal goalkeeper Diego Conde did well to keep out a bundled effort from the Polish striker but Lewandowski pounced after 35 minutes for his second. Conde saved Garcia's header well but the former Bayern Munich hitman converted the rebound with an acrobatic finish from close range.



It was his sixth La Liga goal of the season, taking him two clear of Real Madrid's KylianMbappe in Spain's Golden Boot race. Villarreal were frequently threatening on the counter and Perez gave them a lifeline after the electric Nicolas Pepe set him up. TerStegen thwarted Pepe with a sensational save one-on-one before half-time but the German was soon stricken as he fell badly after catching a corner before the break and was replaced by Inaki Pena. Pepe finished brilliantly early in the second half but his effort was disallowed for a marginal offside call, and YeremyPino hit the bar with a header as Marcelino Garcia Toral's side drove Barcelona back. Torre extended Barca's lead with a deflected strike from the edge of the box, a killer blow given Villarreal's momentum. Lewandowski hit the post from the spot after Eric Bailly scythed down Yamal and Villarreal's Thierno Barry had a goal ruled out for offside. Raphinha ended any hopes of a home comeback, first with a deflected shot and then finishing after a superb Yamal pass left him with just Conde to beat. Despite the emphatic victory and 100 percent start, if TerStegen's injury proves to be severe it could dent Barcelona's title hopes. - Agencies

Business / World



PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 223 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 223.95 points, a negative change of 0.27 percent, closing at 81,850.50 points against 82,074.45 points on the last working day. A total of 400,309,071 shares were traded during the day as compared to 482,373,803 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18.690 billion against Rs.30.188 billion on the last trading day. As many as 439 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 143 of them recorded gains and 237 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 59 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Pace (Pak) Limited with 30,381,268 shares at Rs5.39 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 29,117,310 shares at Rs 1.28 per share and Oil and Gas Development with 23,080,653 shares at Rs 138.61per share. -APP

Rupee sheds 03 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 03 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.86 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.83. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279 and Rs 280.7 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 1.79 paisa to close at Rs 308.40 against the last day's closing of Rs 310.19, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.93, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.29 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs368.52 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 369.81. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham gained 01 paisa and closed at Rs 75.65 and the Saudi Rival remained stagnant at Rs74.04. -APP

Gold price eases by Rs 600 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.600 and was sold at Rs.271,900 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 272,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 471 to Rs. 233,110 from Rs. 233,625 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 213.685 from Rs. 214,156, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs 2,950 and Rs 2,529.14, respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$5 to \$2,617 from \$2,622, the Association reported.-APP

Three killed, 20 injured in bus-trolley collision

LAYYAH:At least three passengers were killed while 20 others sustained injuries after a bus collided with a tractor trolley in wee hours of Monday near Kothi Qureshi in Layyah. The Rescue 1122 said the bus was heading to Dera Ghazi Khan from Rawalpindi when it met a tragic incident. Initially, cause of the accident was termed as over-speeding, they said and added that the bodies and injured were shifted to the DHQ Layyah. The deceased were identified as Muhammad Ramazan, 48, Qamar Nazeer, 37, and Yasir Hassan, 27,. The injured were Raheel, 25, Shahzad, 32, Ahmed Hassan, 34, Aftab Ahmed, 26, M Saleem, 19, Jahanzaib, 58, M Zesshan, 17, Shaheena Begum, 58, Khalid Abbas, 30, Abid, 45, Waseem, 30, M Ashfaq, 48, M Saglain, 40, Raheema Bibi, 45, Hassan Yasin, 27 Amjad Javid, Ahmed Hassan, 40, M Iqbal, 34, Abida, Farman ,8 , Rehan, four, Romal, 3, Khalid and Usman, 6.-APP

Briefs Pak calls for implementation at Pact for Future

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for the developing countries to seek implementation of the commitments made in Sunday's UN Pact for the Future, which is aimed at transforming the multilateral system, noting that it has balked at even some of the pledges made to them in other reform accords. "Undoubtedly, the pact we have adopted is not perfect," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a discussion on: Transforming global governance and turbo-charging the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "There are many provisions in which we have stepped back from the commitments which were made in the SDG political declaration and even in agenda 2030," the Pakistani envoy

transformation, which the developing countries were seeking, will only be achieved through implementation. In this regard, Ambassador Akram underscored the need to implement the commitments undertaken on the reform of the international financial architecture,t the SDG Stimulus; to re-channel 50% of the 2021 SDR allocations to developing countries; increase the voice and representation of developing countries in international financial institutions, and improve developing countries access to concessional lending; review the sovereign debt architecture, and adopt an equitable UN Framework Convention on International Tax Ambassador Akram also called the Pact's provisions on trade "unsatisfactory". "Trade must become, once

development" he said, adding, "We must resist the new environmental protectionism, expand preferential treatment for developing countries, and pursue a robust revival of the WTO (World Trade Organization) dispute settlement system.

He said that bridging the digital divide was a key to future development, stressing the avoidance of the north-south fragmentation as well as an East-West fragmentation of the digital space. "We must ensure equitable data governance," the Pakistani envoy said.

"We must capture the power of artificial intelligence, including through an International scientific panel on AI, an Annual Dialogue on AI governance, as well as a fund on AI capacity building " Finally," he said, "the key will

veloping countries "- to achieve that, developing countries need access to the latest technologies and designs and to invest in achieving these products. It is pertinent to mention that UN members adopted a blueprint for the future on Sunday to tackle the myriad wars, environmental threats and technological challenges facing humanity that was hailed by the organisation as "groundbreaking" but panned by critics as unambitious

Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who championed the "Pact for The Future" and its components, billed them as "landmark agreements - a stepchange towards more effective, inclusive, networked multilateralism." As an opener for the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly, which begins on Tuesday, dozens of heads of state and government gathered for the adoption, which faced last-minute opposition from Russia and its allies.

Leaders pledged to bolster the multilateral system to "keep pace with a changing world" and to "protect the needs and interests of current and future generations" facing "persistent crisis." 'We believe there is a path to a brighter future for all of humanity," the document says. The pact outlines 56 "actions," including commitments to multilateralism, upholding the UN Charter and peacekeeping. It also calls for reforms to international financial institutions and the UN Security Council, along with renewed efforts to combat climate change, promote disarmament, and guide the development of artificial intelligence.-Agencies

Japan fires naval

captain for entering

Chinese waters

during military drills

BEIJING: Japan has dismissed the captain of a Maritime

Self-Defense Force (MSDF) destroyer after the vessel inad-

vertently sailed into Chinese territorial waters in July, de-

spite repeated warnings from Chinese vessels, diplomatic sources revealed. The incident triggered a formal protest

from Beijing. The destroyer Suzutsuki entered Chinese

waters off Zhejiang Province on July 4, staying within the

12-nautical-mile boundary for about 20 minutes while mon-

itoring Chinese military drills in the area. According to

sources, the destroyer's captain, a male officer holding the

rank of commander, stated that he was unaware the ship had

crossed into a restricted zone. He had assumed command of

the vessel only two months earlier, in May. The error was

attributed to flaws in communication among the crew. An

investigation revealed that several crew members failed to

adequately check nautical instruments, maintain a lookout,

and report to the captain as required. The officer was dismissed

in late July for negligence, and the MSDF is considering discipli-

nary action against other crew members involved. This marks

the first time an MSDF vessel has entered Chinese waters with-

out prior notification since the formation of Japan's Self-Defense

Forces in 1954. The Japanese government has informed China

about its internal findings but does not plan to release an official

report, as it concerns SDF operations. The incident raises con-

cerns over the skill levels of MSDF personnel, especially in light

of their growing responsibilities monitoring Chinese military ac-

tivities in the East China Sea. Yoji Koda, a former commander

in chief of the Self-Defense Fleet, highlighted that the MSDF

has struggled to maintain training standards amid heightened

surveillance missions. Beijing condemned the Suzutsuki's en-

try into its waters, calling it an "illegal and improper move"

and urging Tokyo to investigate and take measures to prevent

similar incidents. While Japan invoked the right to innocent pas-

sage under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, Beijing

contended that the MSDF ship did not meet the requirements

under Chinese domestic law, which mandates foreign vessels to

seek prior permission before entering territorial waters. The

incident has underscored tensions between Japan and China,

particularly over territorial disputes in the East China Sea,

where both nations lay claim to the Senkaku Islands, known as

Diaoyu in China. In addition to this, Chinese vessels have also

been reported near Japanese waters off Kagoshima Prefecture

and the Sea of Japan, where MSDF ships monitor North Ko-

rean missile activities. mid mounting challenges, Japan is con-

templating expanding its personnel and improving equipment

Greek, Turkish leaders to meet in New

ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will meet Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Greek government spokesman said on Monday. The two leaders last met on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington in July. Neighbours Greece and Turkey, both NATO allies but historic foes, have been at odds for decades over a range of issues from airspace to maritime jurisdiction in the eastern Mediterranean and ethnically split Cyprus. Tensions have eased in recent years and the longstanding sparring partners last year agreed to reboot their relations, pledging to keep open channels of communication, seek military confidence-building measures to eliminate sources of tension and work on the issues that have kept them apart. –APP

Donald Trump rules out 2028 run

NEW YORK: Republican Donald Trump said that he will not make a fourth consecutive run for the US presidency if he loses the November 5 election, saying "that will be it" in an interview released on Sunday, Reuters reported. Asked if he saw himself running again in four years if he is unsuccessful in his third consecutive bid for the White House, the 78-yearold former president told Sharvl Attkisson's "Full Measure" program: "No I don't. I think that will be - that will be it. I don't see that at all. Hopefully, we will be successful." Trump faces a tight race against Democratic US Vice President Kamala Harris, with polls showing the two neck-andneck in key battleground states that are likely to be decisive in determining the winner, even as Harris has begun to edge up in nationwide polls. Trump launched his first reelection bid for the 2020 election on the same day he was inaugurated in 2017 and announced his latest White House bid two years ago in November 2022. Trump has continued to falsely blame his 2020 loss to Democratic President Joe Biden on widespread voter fraud and faces federal and state criminal charges over efforts to overturn the election results. He denies any wrongdoing and has cast his indictments as a political attack against him while embracing increasingly dystopian rhetoric if he were to

if he loses US

lose in 2024. – Agencies

election

Rohingya refugees detail worsening violence in

Myanmar

COX'S BAZAR: Rohingya

refugee Syed fled Myanmar for a second time last month, after he was forced to fight alongside the military that drove his family out of their homeland years earlier. Syed, whose name has been changed to protect him from reprisals, is one of thousands of young men from the stateless and persecuted Muslim minority rounded up to wage a war not of their own making. Their conscription into the ranks of junta-run Myanmar's military has prompted revenge attacks against civilians and pushed thousands more into Bangladesh, already host to around a million Rohingya refugees. "The people there are suffering a lot. I saw that with my own eyes," Syed told AFP, soon after his escape and return to the squalid Bangladeshi relief camp he has called home for the past seven years. "Some are starving, they are dying of hunger," the 23-year-old added. "Everyone else is busy trying to save their own lives." Sved said he was conscripted by a Rohingya armed group operating in the camps in June and sent to fight against the Arakan Army, a rebel group waging war against Myanmar's junta to carve out its own autonomous homeland. He and other Rohingya recruits were put to work as porters, digging ditches and fetching water for Myanmar troops as they bunkered in against advancing rebel troops.-DNA

Jam Kamal, UK trade commissioner discuss economic, bilateral ties



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom (UK) Trade Oliver Commissioner Christian on Monday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral trade. The meeting highlighted the need for sectoral collaboration and business-to-business matchmaking approach to target growth areas

in both countries, said a news release. Jam Kamal emphasized Pakistan's immense potential in the food sector, particularly through value addition.

Trash balloons saga

South Korea warns

of 'decisive' action

against North

SEOUL: South Korea said Monday it would take "decisive

military action" if anyone is killed by the wave of trash-car-

rying balloons being launched across the border by North

Korea. Pyongyang has sent more than 5,500 balloons car-

rying payloads of garbage since May, disrupting flights,

causing fires, and even hitting government buildings in the

South. Pyongyang says the tactic is a response to activ-

ists in the South sending balloons carrying propaganda

to the North. Seoul "will take decisive military actions

if the North's trash-filled balloons post a serious safe-

ty threat or are deemed to have crossed a line", Lee

Sung-joon, of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters.

The line would be crossed if anyone died as a result of

the balloons he said, without giving details on exactly

what the "decisive" measures would entail. Most of the bal-

loons sent by the North have bags of waste paper attached.

which pose no specific health risk, but concerns have

been raised after new devices attached to some caused

fires in recent weeks. "Our military is closely monitoring

North Korean military and tracking the launch point of

the balloons in real time," the JCS's Lee said. The warning

came hours after the latest balloon launch briefly disrupted

"Pakistan currently can get more foreign exchange by focusing on value addition," he added. The minister underscored the government's commitment to expanding trade, particularly under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif. He praised Prime Minister's dedication to achieving an ambitious export growth plan, aiming to increase exports from US\$30 billion to US\$60 billion. He also highlighted Pakistan's success in organizing the FoodAg Expo in Karachi, where more than 800 foreign delegates participated.

"This was the first event of its kind, with such a large international presence, and it opened doors to significant business opportunities," he added. Kamal cited Pakistan's growing exports in other sectors, such as IT. mining, horticulture. and dairy, and discussed the potential for future exports, including olive products. "Pakistan is on its way to becoming a significant olive exporter, with vast cultivation underway," he informed. The UK Trade Commisacknowledged Pakistan's vast potential and extended full support

for increasing the trade volume between the two nations. Both sides emphasized the importance of the *UK-Pakistan Trade Dialogue*, a platform to be established soon to promote trade and investment. As the UK diversifies its import sources post-Brexit, the minister highlighted Pakistan's potential to become a key supplier of food products to the UK, given its compliance with international standards. This discussion marked a significant step in strengthening trade ties, with both parties expressing optimism for the future of UK-Pakistan

to ensure that its forces are better equipped to handle future trade relations. maritime operations.-DNA

BRICS Moscow Seminar

Mushahid welcomes 'winds of change in South Asia'

MOSCOW: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said 'Pakistan looks forward to joining BRICS' & welcomed 'winds of change blowing all across South Asia which reject hegemony, status quo and seek change', referring to recent radical changes in the Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He expressed these views during a keynote address at BRICS seminar. As a consequence, he said the so-called 'Indo-Pacific Strategy is now drowning in the waters of the Indian Ocean', a news release said. BRICS (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising various nations including the BRICS and Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Senator Mushahid criticised the recent US sanctions against Pakistan and China, terming these 'immoral, unjust, unacceptable and illegal' as sanctions under International Law can only be imposed by the UN Security Council. He also condemned 'Western hypocrisy and double standards on Palestine'. Senator Mushahid Hussain said the Global Order was marked by turbulence and transformation, with two contrasting narratives. China and Global South are focused on connectivity and trade and economic cooperation. Senator Mushahid Hussain urged the BRICS Seminar to define a new narrative based on emerging ground realities to counter propaganda, fake news and disinformation. For the future, Mushahid put forward a 3-D Strategy for BRICS: Democratisation of the world order based on multipolarity, multilateralism, UN Charter and International Law, Demilitarisation of international relations, rejecting any new military alliances like 'Asian NATO', QUAD or AUKUS, Dedollarisation of the world economy and greater trade in non-dollar currencies as dollar was being weaponised. Senator Mushahid Hussain was warmly welcomed by the host, Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special Envoy of President Putin, as well China's Minister for International Communication, Wang Gang. Apart from Russia and China, other countries represented at BRICS Seminar included India, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Iran and UAE. Senator Mushahid Hussain was the only representative from a non-BRICS member state.-APP

Long wait for justice in India's backlogged courts

AJMER: Sonia waited 32 years to see her rapists convicted, a glacially slow legal process all too common in India where half a million cases have been pending for longer than two decades. The violence inflicted on her was horrific and the trauma was compounded by years of painful stop-start trials, beginning in 1992 and ending only last month with six men jailed for life. "My heart is full of pain," said Sonia, 52, who as a young woman, was bound, gagged and raped in her home city of Ajmer in the northern state of Rajasthan. "I could not do anything," said Sonia, whose name has been changed to protect her identity. "This should not happen to any girl." In the world's most populous nation, a staggering 533,000 cases have been languishing in court for between 20 and 30 years, according to justice ministry figures. More than three-quarters of them are criminal cases.

flights at Incheon airport.-APP

Last year, the Supreme Court warned victims may become "disillusioned when the legal process moves at a snail's pace", expressing their "anguish" at some cases taking as long as 65 years. Nearly 3,000 cases nationwide have been pending for at least half a century. Sonia, against many expectations, eventually got justice. In her case, part of a wider rape and blackmail trial, 18 men were charged. But only a handful were initially in detention. Defence lawyers demanded the trial restart each time another arrest was made. As the years wore on, trial lawyers came and went. Evidence was trawled over again and again. Virendra Singh Rathore, who was at least the tenth public prosecutor to have handled the case, said it was "traumatic" for survivors. 'They would ask us, why we are bothering them, and, why the accused were not being punished,"

he said. On August 20, a court in Ajmer sentenced six men to life imprisonment, ending a complex case that had seen years of twists and turns, several convictions and subsequent acquittals. Rathore said the lives of the survivors would have been very different had justice been swifter. "Others, who have had to endure such crimes, would have had the courage to come forward," he said. "For the common man, justice delayed is basically justice denied - or completely absent." The justice ministry has ordered hugely backlogged courts to prioritise the "speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature", but their caseloads are overwhelming. At least 44 million cases are pending across the country of 1.4 billion people. That judicial jam could take decades - if not centuries - to clear at current speeds, even without a continuing pileup of fresh cas-

es. Procedures are bogged down in rigid rules rooted in the British colonial era. There has been little investment in digital systems to streamline and organise hearings, while a meagre ratio of judges - just 21 per million of population in India - means procedures are notoriously slow. New Delhi-based lawyer Mishika Singh, who founded the Neev Foundation to improve legal access for the city's poor, warns those seeking justice in an "overburdened" system to be ready to wait. "We tell them very clearly that even to get an interim order, it can easily take a year to two years," she said. "For the final decision to come. it can take three to four years, easily." Neelam Krishnamoorthy's two children, aged 13 and 17, were among the 59 killed in a blaze in a Delhi cinema in 1997. After an epic legal fight, cinema owners Sushil and Gopal

Ansal were sentenced in 2007 for negligence to two years in iail. But that was challenged on appeal, and reduced to a fine. Another case of tampering with evidence saw them sentenced to seven years in 2021, but a court in July set the pair free due to their age. Today, 27 years since her children died, Krishnamoorthy is fighting an appeal case demanding they serve jail time. "When I went to the court initially, I thought it was what I saw in films: you go to court, you have four or five hearings and justice is delivered," she said. "I was in for a rude shock. This is a never-ending saga." Krishnamoorthy accused the judicial system of only acting swiftly when a case captured public attention. "They intervene if there is a public outrage," she said.

"Don't other victims of crime

like us need justice? "-DNA



Islamabar POST



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Briefs

3 Afghan women arrested at Karachi airport

DNA

KARACHI:Immigration authorities have arrested three Afghan women attempting to go to Germany on forged documents via Karachi. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration officials said the arrested women had been identified as Aziza Mohammadi, Mehria Rehmani and Zahra Sultani.

"Medical and business docu ments of all the three women were counterfeit," they said, adding that a case was regis tered against the women and they were handed over to the anti-human trafficking circle for further legal action.

As per the officials, Aziza came to Pakistan on a medical visa. The documents furnished by her apparently showed she had been admitted to a hospital for treatment in Islamabad between April 27 and May 20, 2024. While, upon investigation, it was revealed that she never visited Pakistan since obtaining her passport, the immigration authorities said. Similarly, documents with Mehria, who arrived in the country on a business visa, insisted that she was on a business trip to Pakistan with her spouse Iqbal Hakimi. When inquired about her husband, the woman claimed she was unmarried and knew no one named Iqbal Hakimi,

the FIA officials added. They said, as per documents provided by Zahra, she arrived in Pakistan on September 2 with a female patient, MarmanParveen, as an attendant. Investigation revealed that she deceptively took a Pakistani visa pretending to be the patient's attendant. It should be noted that the immigration authorities at the Karachi airport recently arrested at least nine other such foreigners going abroad

FBR to launch crackdown against non-filers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) decided to launch stringent crackdown against non-filers starting October 1. This will include imposing restrictions on non-filers traveling abroad, among other measures.

A senior official from the FBR stated that the board plans to take strict enforcement actions after October 1, aiming to achieve an annual tax target of approximately 13 trillion rupees. As part of this campaign, millions of non-filers will receive final tax notices.

The FBR also mentioned that restrictions may be imposed on non-filers traveling abroad, along with strategies to disconnect mobile SIMs and utility connections for electricity and gas. Additionally, there is a proposal to ban non-filers from buying and selling property and vehicles. The FBR has stated that income tax returns for the fiscal year 2024 must be submitted by September 30.



SWAT: Group photo of Ambasador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corp Atdian Movlamov. Russian Ambasador Albert Khorev, Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza AmiriMoghadam, Ambassador of Kazakhstan YerzhanKistafin, Ambassador of Ethiopia Jamal Bekar Abdullah, Ambassador of Bosnia EminCohodarevic, Ambassador of Portugal Manuel FredericoPinheiro Da Silva, Ambassador of Zimbabwe Abu Basutu Titus, Charge d Affairs of Indonesia Rahmat Hindiarata Kusuma, Ambassador of Vietnam Pham Anh Tuan, Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybak Arif Usmanov, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, President Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rahat Ali Khan and other on the eve of Swat Tourism Conference. These Diplomats survived IED attack in Malam Jabba. – DNA

to terminate PPAs

"Govt would not pay capacity payments anymore in range of Rs139-150 bn per annum to said IPPs for next 3-5 years"

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Owners of four independent power producers (IPPs) set up under the 1994 policy and another, established under the 2002 policy, have been warned of consequences if they don't terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs) voluntarily and go on pay and take mode, a Pakistani newspaper reported Monday.

"The government would not pay capacity payments anymore in the range of Rs139-150 billion per annum to the said IPPs for the next 3-5 years, this has been told to the proprietors of the said five IPPs. They have also been categorically told that the government has already made excess payments to the said IPPs in the shape of the capacity payments and returns on equity and has also paid the loans of the IPPs," the officials privy to the matter said. The owner of an IPP, officials said, responded to the main players of the task force on IPPs that if the government pays Rs55 billion to his company, he will not only be ready to ter-

minate the contract but will also hand over the plant to the government. "However, he has been told that the government will not pay Rs55 billion and will also not get control of the plant. He has the only option of terminating the agreement on his own." The authorities in the task force also pinpointed that the IPP management has been found in flouting the agreement with the government as it raised the funding for

other powerhouses by pledging the plant, which is the negation of the contract. "So these wrongdoings are enough to initiate the criminal proceedings." "The owners have also been told that their IPPs are also involved in deceiving the government by wrongly showing losses in the head of O&M (operation and maintenance) during the period of 2020-24 making the unjustified profit in billions of rupees.

The four owners, according to the officials, including the former state minister for petroleum during the PTI government, have been summoned to meet the main and powerful members of the task force on Saturday and the said IPPs' proprietors have been told that they have no option but to terminate their agreements, otherwise forensic audit of their plants would kick start and recover excessive profits they made in the past through wrongdoings and initiate the proceedings against them. An eminent business tycoon from Lahore who also owns the power plants apart from holding other businesses in various sectors of the economy will meet the authorities Monday.

5-member SC bench to hear audio leaks case

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah led bench will hear the case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday formed a five-member larger bench to hear the audio leaks case. Sources said that the bench would be chaired by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. Justices YahyaAfridi, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Mandokhel, and MusrratHilali will be its members. Sources indicated that the hearing for the audio leaks case is expected to be scheduled in the coming week.

It is to be recalled that the Supreme Court had overturned the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) order and barred it from conducting any further proceedings in the audio leaks case of former first lady Bushra Bibi and son of former chief justice Saqib Nasir, Najam Saqib. A two-member bench, headed by Justice

Aminuddin Khan and also having Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, heard the case on the application filed by the federal government against the June 25 verdict of the IHC. At the beginning of the hearing, Justice Khan asked if the IHC had found out who was doing the recordings. The deputy attorney general replied that it was still unknown. "Unfortunately no one wants to reach the truth in this country. An inquiry commission was formed which was given a stay by the apex court. But the case was never fixed again for hearing in the Supreme Court", the court said. "Parliament also tried to find the truth but it couldn't. If courts and parliament are not allowed to unearth the truth, then who will do that?" asked Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. Later, the apex court accepted appeals of the federal government and suspended the IHC order of May 29 and June 25 citing overstepping from its constitutional ambit while seeking a record of the audio leak case.

Naqvi felicitates Saudi envoy on kingdom's national day

The Interior Minister said that the bilateral relations between Pakistan-Saudi Arabia are shining example of friendship and brotherhood which have withstood the test of time



FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi extended heartiest congratulations to HRH King Salman bin Abdulaziz, HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Royal family, and the people of Saudi Arabia on the country's National Day. The Interior Minister said that the bilateral relations between Pakistan-Saudi Arabia are shining example of friendship and brotherhood which have withstood the test of time. He underscored that the land of Hijaz is the center of devotion and spirituality for the Muslims. He added that the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are connected by religious and fraternal ties. Interior Minister said, "Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan, and we cherish our historic bond." He highlighted that Saudi Arabia's progress under its current leadership is commendable. He stated that the Royal Family has rendered invaluable services for Islam and Muslim Ummah.

5 IPP owners directed **Over 274 killed in Israeli** air raids across Lebanon

News Desk

BEIRUT: The Israeli regime's warplanes have conducted extensive airstrikes against towns and villages across Lebanon, killing at least 274 people. Lebanon's health minister Firass Abiad announced the death toll on Monday, saying martyrs included 21 children, 39 women and two medics. Earlier, the country's health ministry said at least 1024 others had also been wounded in the attacks that targeted the areas earlier in the day. The casualties included "children, women, and emergency workers," it added, noting that the numbers were provisional. The country's media outlets said the aircraft had bombed all the towns and villages lying on the southern border as well as their surroundings.

Israeli warplanes also reportedly targeted eastern Lebanese areas, including the Bekaa Valley. Lebanese sources said the airstrikes had targeted a total of more than 40 areas in Lebanon during the attacks. Israeli media outlets, meanwhile, alleged that the attacks had hit locations lying as far as 125 kilometers (77 miles) inside the Lebanese territory. Israeli military spokesman Danieh Hagari said the the regime "will engage in [more] extensive and precise strikes" against Lebanon, adding that the attacks would "go on for the near future." The regime has markedly intensified its attacks against the country since October 7, when it launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has responded with numerous strikes against the occupied Palestinian territories.

PTI challenges practice and procedure ordinance

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has filed a petition in the Sindh High Court, challenging the recently introduced Practice and Procedure Ordinance, which it claims violates a Supreme Court ruling. The petition argues that the ordinance breaches constitutional principles and calls for its immediate suspension pending a judicial review. In its petition, PTI stated that the ordinance, which deals with judicial practices, contradicts a ruling by a Supreme Court bench led by Chief

Justice QaziFaez Isa. According to the petition, the bench had previously ruled that an ordinance could only be issued in cases of emergency. The PTI further argued that the ordinance could not be issued immediately after a parliamentary session, which it claims goes against constitutional guidelines.

Iran ready for nuclear talks at UN

DUBAI: Iran is ready to start nuclear negotiations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York if "other parties are willing", Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi said on Monday in a video published on his Telegram channel. The US, under then-President Donald Trump, withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 by Iran and six world powers under which Tehran curbed its disputed nuclear programme in return for a lifting of international sanctions. Indirect talks between Washington and Tehran to revive the deal have stalled. - Agencies



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