



# Islamabad POST

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**Erling Haaland equals Ronaldo's 13-year record**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Iran ready for nuclear talks at UN**

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**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 a member of the committee is absent.

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## '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 Tehreek-e-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 regarding the legislation's retrospective effect dating back to 2017.

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## 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.



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

## '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

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## Briefs

**Xi calls CPEC as 'strategic coop' for ties**

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.

## 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 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 decisions of the Supreme Court. He recalled the verdict of the Peshawar High Court in which it upheld the decision of the Election Commission with a majority of five zero. Responding to a query, the federal minister said PTI was not a party in cases in ECP, Peshawar High Court or Supreme Court while loyalty

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## Gohar urges political space for PTI

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

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman, Barrister Gohar, has said that denying political space to the country's most popular party will only benefit non-political forces. Speaking to media representatives in the provincial capital, he emphasised that curbing political participation could

Continued on Page 06

# 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 excellent relations in various fields and had always supported each other during challenging times. The President expressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince

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 leadership of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom had emerged as a great country of the 21st century. Calling Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 a role model for the world,

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## Briefs

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

ISLAMABAD: The internationally acclaimed Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have joined hands to explore avenues of co-operation 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: National 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 Professional 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 future tech talent.—APP

## 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 (GTH) 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 Pak-launch.com in collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, the PM's coordinator further said that the GTH, 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

# 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-

mense 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. 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-

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 the resilient and climate-tolerant kiwifruit varieties may help Pakistan overcome challenges relat-

ed to climate variability, water scarcity, and pest control. "The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers a platform for both countries to collaborate on agricultural projects, including kiwifruit cultivation. Pakistan could also benefit from Chinese markets by exporting kiwifruit once production scales up," Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq looked ahead. Under 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. It 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.

## 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 at 1100hrs 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

## COMSTEC-Mauritania to collaborate

ISLAMABAD: COMSTEC- 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 COMSTEC and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Mauritania under the Joint Science and Technology Capacity Building Program. COMSTEC shares a long-standing brotherly relationship with Mauritania and this program will further strengthen the scientific cooperation between the two countries. Under the COMSTEC-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 Monday.

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 history 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.

## 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 possibilities for Pakistan's troubled textile sector. The team, led by Dr. Yasir Nawab is positive that this development has the potential 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 representing the textile industry. He added that this invention would not only save billions of dollars in foreign exchange but also reduce 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 international brands use this yarn, and Pakistani exporters are also interested. Natural fibre from banana trees consists of cellulose, lignin, and hemicelluloses. The appearance of banana fibres is similar to bamboo and ramie fibres 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 absorption, natural shine, high strength, and minimal elongation, make them ideal for apparel production.—DNA

## 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-

erates under a legal framework 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

and mediation services accepted 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 plat-

form will cater to countries along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including those in Central Asia and Europe, etc.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

season as Arsenal kept two clean sheets against the champions. But the Norwegian is 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.

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.

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.



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.

gles" in the past couple of months but added she had more "trust" in her body. "I've been working hard - especially at the start of the year and the mid part of the year - physically," said Raducanu.

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.

SC backs PTI bid...

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.

Friedkin Group agrees deal to buy Everton

LONDON: The Friedkin Group has reached an agreement to buy Farhad Moshiri'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.

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.

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.

coach also started reserve team players Gerard Martin and Sergi Dominguez, as well as playmaker Torre in place of the injured Dani Olmo.

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.



It was his sixth La Liga goal of the season, taking him two clear of Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe 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.

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.

constitutional amendments, 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.

'Parliament's rights can't be snatched'

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.

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 used for judges who wrote dissenting note.



## 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 Sultan. "Medical and business documents of all the three women were counterfeit," they said, adding that a case was registered 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, Marman Parveen, 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 on forged documents.

### FBR to launch crackdown against non-filers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to launch a 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 Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corp Atdjan Movlamov, Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev, Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Ethiopia Jamal Bekar Abdullah, Ambassador of Bosnia Emin Cohodarevic, Ambassador of Portugal Manuel Frederico Pinheiro 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

## 5 IPP owners directed 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 terminate 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 Yahya Afridi, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Mandokhel, and Musrrat Hilali 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.



## 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 Qazi Faez 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

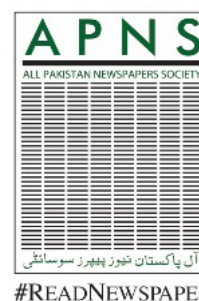
DUBAI: Iran is ready to start nuclear negotiations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York if "other parties are willing", Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Monday in a video published on his Telegram channel. The US, under then-President Donald Trump, withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear 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

## 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 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.



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