



Islamabad POST

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British HC Marriott launches Aawaz II expansion in Sindh

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Azam Tarar for strong coop with Baku

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Rodri out for season with injury

Detailed News On Page-06



Urges global climate justice

PM calls for halt to Gaza bloodshed

Pakistan stages walkout as Netanyahu takes podium after Shehbaz's speech at UNGA

NEWS DESK / DNA

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated that Pakistan will give befitting response to Indian aggression as he highlighted the belligerence of the Modi-led government. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the gathering of global leaders at the 79th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. "Its an honour for me to address the United Nations General Assembly for the second time as the prime minister of the country that has always been the proactive member of the UN Assembly," the premier said in his opening remarks. PM Shehbaz said the Father of our nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, declared in 1947 that, "we stand by the United Nations Charter, and, will gladly make, our full contribution, to peace and prosperity, of the world." Pakistan has stood by this commitment unwaveringly. "Today, we are facing most daunting challenges to the world order - Israel's genocidal war in Gaza, a dangerous conflict in Ukraine, destructive conflicts across Africa and Asia, rising geo-political tensions resurging terrorism, galloping poverty, stifling debt and a mounting impact of climate change. We feel the chill of a new cold war." Likening the current situation of Gaza to Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the prime minister said that the people of occupied territory 'too' have struggled, for a century, for their freedom, and right to self-determination. "Instead of moving towards peace, India, has resiled, from its commitments to implement the Security Council resolutions on Kashmir dispute," he said, adding: "These resolutions,

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Several killed in Israeli bombing on makeshift tents

The number of Palestinians killed since the start of the Israeli war on Gaza has now risen to 41,534 martyrs

AGENCIES

GAZA CITY: Despite the intensification of Israeli bombardment on Lebanon, the Israeli occupation forces continue their massacres in the Gaza Strip for the 357th consecutive day. According to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Health in Gaza, the number of Palestinians killed since the start of the Israeli war on Gaza on October 7 has now risen to 41,534 martyrs and those injured 96,092. Three Palestinians were killed and several others were wounded on Friday morning as a result of the continued Israeli shelling of several areas in Gaza. Medical sources reported that a Palestinian

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NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the 79th Session of United Nations General Assembly in New York on 27 September 2024. - DNA

Lt. Gen. Ali appointed as new Defense secretary

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Lt. Gen. Muhammad Ali has been appointed as Defense Secretary of Pakistan and will assume his duties from October 1. The federal government appointed Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali as the Defense Secretary for the time span of two years and three months. The establishment division has also issued an official notification in this regard, directing him to assume his new duties from October 01, 2024 till December 31, 2026.

Asks SC to review order

ECP challenges Apex Court's clarification on reserved seats

A review petition was moved by the ECP against the apex court's clarification

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday challenged the Supreme Court's clarification on reserved seats. A review petition was moved by the ECP against the apex court's clarification. On Sept 14, an eight-member bench of the apex court disposed of the ECP's petition, stating that its request for clarification was merely a "delaying tactic". "The ECP isn't responsible of delay in implementing the SC order," said the election commission in its review petition. The ECP said that it moved the SC on July 25 seeking clarification of apex court's order of July 25. However, the Supreme Court issued the short order of clarification on September 14. The Parliament has also passed legislation over the subject, ECP stated. The ECP pleaded that the SC must review its order passed on Sept 14. Earlier, the Supreme Court

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Law and constitution under threat, says Shibli Faraz

Despite obstacles PTI will hold protest at Liaquat Bagh, asserts Waqas Akram

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Shibli Faraz said that the law and constitution were under threat in the country. Talking to the media alongside Sheikh Waqas Akram, Faraz said the Tashakhana case had been registered four times against the PTI founder Imran Khan. He claimed that despite all efforts to convict Khan, he remained strong both mentally

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Hezbollah chief 'hit' in Israel attack

Scores dead and injured in onslaught

DNA

BEIRUT: Israel's military launches an "unprecedented" attack on southern Beirut with dead and wounded at the scene and buildings brought down as assault on Lebanon intensifies. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decries "lies and slander" at the UN General Assembly, threatens Iran, and vows to continue "degrading" Hezbollah in Lebanon as delegates storm out in protest. The Israeli forces claimed that the Hezbollah Chief Hasan Nasrullah was hit in the operation however the Hezbollah sources said that Israeli claims had no truth.

JUI-F won't support CJP Faez Isa

Abdul Ghafoor criticised Mubarak Sani case verdict

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUIF) Secretary General and National Assembly member Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has declared that his party will not support Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the ongoing constitutional amendment process. Maulana Abdul Ghafoor expressed this stance while speaking informally with journalists at Parliament House.

Holiday Notice

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

Inaugurates IT park

COAS commends government efforts in economic recovery

COAS highlighted that Pakistan has remarkable potential in various domains and all must have unflinching trust and confidence in the bright future of Pakistan



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the Karachi Corps area of responsibility, where he was briefed on operational preparedness and key training initiatives undertaken by the Army. During his visit, COAS also inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a hub aimed at empowering Pakistan's youth by fostering academia-industry

collaboration in the field of Information Technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence. Honourable Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and notable civil community members attended the inauguration ceremony. Chief Minister Sindh emphasized the importance of IT domain for optimal exploitation of potential of youth and economic growth. COAS highlighted that such projects are aimed at providing the most conducive environment to further promote the growth of IT Industry in the country, which is already accelerating at a respectable pace. COAS also interacted with the business community of Karachi. COAS appreciated the contributions of business community and entrepreneurs towards the country's economic growth. Participants expressed confidence and praised SIFC for its role towards achieving

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Afghans identified among terrorists killed in NW

Security forces identify Afghan terrorists who were recently killed during operation in North Waziristan's Razmak area

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pakistani security forces have identified another Afghan national as one of the eight terrorists killed yesterday in an IBO in North Waziristan. The IBO was carried out on 26 September 2024 in the Razmak area of North Waziristan. The identified terrorist, Jalal bin Naimatullah, was a native of the Bermal area in Afghanistan's Paktika province, Express News reported. Another terrorist was also identified as Afghan national. Saifulah, the son of Deen Faraz, belonged to the notorious Gul Bahadur group, linked to the Fitnat al-Khawarij.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan receives first tranche of \$1.02 billion from IMF

These inflows will be reflected in SBP liquid reserves to be released on Thursday September 30, 2024

DNA

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday received the first tranche of SDR 760 million (equivalent to \$1.0269 billion) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The IMF Executive Board approved a 37-month programme on Wednesday. These inflows will be reflected in SBP liquid reserves to be released on Thursday, September 30, 2024, the central bank said in a statement. Following the long-awaited approval, the IMF said the new programme would require "sound policies and reforms" to strengthen macroeconomic stability and address structural challenges alongside "continued strong financial support from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners". Pakistan had been working on implementing conditions deemed "strict" to complete the loan programme agreed to in July, which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif time and again hoped would be Pakistan's last. Though, the country's economy has stabilised since it came close to defaulting last summer, it is dependent on IMF bailouts and loans from friendly countries to service its huge debt, which swallows up half of its annual revenues.

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Finance ministry projects 8-9% inflation for Sept-Oct

Inflation for August stood at 9.6% on year-on-year basis, compared with 27.4% in same month a year earlier, report says

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's headline inflation is anticipated to ease further over the next two months, likely hovering between 8-9%, the Finance Division said on Friday, forecasting the recovery to stay on course down the line. In its 'Monthly Economic Update and Outlook', the ministry reported that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell to single digits in August 2024, marking a 34-month low, and is projected to decline further in the short term. Inflation for August

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Cop shot dead in Bajaur

PESHAWAR: Unknown armed men on Friday shot dead a police constable in Khar tehsil of Bajaur district. Police said the constable, Tahir Rehman was waiting for a vehicle on the roadside in Delly village of Khar when unknown armed men fired at him, killing him on the spot. Police said two other people also sustained injuries in the incident and were shifted to THQ Khar. The deceased cop was deputed at Sim police station and was on a leave. Later, the martyred police official was laid to rest at the ancestral graveyard with complete departmental honor.—APP

PIC Introduces percutaneous Mitraclip procedure for first time in KP

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Institute of Cardiology-Medical Teaching Institution (PIC-MTI), one of the leading cardiac healthcare providers in Pakistan, has once again set a milestone in medical innovation by successfully introducing a minimally invasive procedure for the treatment of leaky heart valves. This marks the first time Mitraclip procedure has been performed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, further establishing PIC as a pioneer in advanced cardiac care in the region. In collaboration with international experts, PIC's highly skilled team has successfully completed the first-ever Mitraclip procedure in the province, without the need for open-heart surgery. This cutting-edge intervention provides an innovative solution for patients with mitral valve regurgitation, a condition where the heart's mitral valve does not close properly, causing blood to flow backward into the heart. Dr. Ali Raza, Assistant Professor at PIC while describing the significance of this procedure said the Mitra Clip is used to repair leaking mitral valves, significantly improving heart function.—APP

Punjab committed to create welcoming environment for visitors

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Tourism Punjab Farid Ahmad Tarar marked World Tourism Day by urging tourists to embrace tolerance, underscoring the government's dedication to transforming Pakistan into a premier tourist destination. This vision aligns with the global "Tourism and Peace" theme, highlighting tourism's potential to foster international understanding and cooperation, he highlighted in an interview with a private news channel. The Secretary of Punjab is encouraging neighboring countries to explore the state's rich cultural heritage, emphasizing the importance of tolerance and cultural exchange. The Secretary highlighted the need to preserve the state's cultural heritage, which is a unique blend of various civilizations, and to share it with the world.—APP

Aawaz II programme to Sindh UK's minorities empowerment programme expands to Sindh

STAFF REPORT

The UK Government has launched its expansion of its Aawaz II programme to Sindh, helping to empower and protect the most vulnerable Pakistanis. This expansion follows Aawaz II's success in Punjab, Islamabad and KPK where it has been running since 2018. It has established over 1000 community led village forums. These forums have empowered members to intervene in and take action against potential conflicts and tackle entrenched views on key issues like child marriage and domestic abuse. Aawaz's text message and radio campaigns have reached over 35 million people. Over 44,000 volunteers have already been engaged on social projects.

Aawaz II works to support people across minority communities. It supported over 34,000 people with disabilities to access disability certificates, understand their rights, and access funds. This includes Kaneez, who toiled day and night to support her husband, a gravedigger, despite her disability. Through Aawaz she was able to access a disability card and social safety nets, and she is now helping others in her community to understand their rights. Now the UK is expanding this work to Sindh. There is an urgent need in Pakistan to take action on exclusion, abuse and ex-

ploitation. Pakistan ranks amongst the lowest in the world on gender equality and rule of law. Honour killings, forced religious conversions and child marriage persist, with 18% of girls married before adulthood. The expansion of Aawaz II to Sindh will engage with communities in 5 districts. The UK aims to strengthen laws, policies and data on child protection and women's rights, enable communities to raise their voice against harmful practices, and

prevent conflicts and discriminatory practices such as forced conversions and child marriages. Aawaz II works by empowering the community, including women, children, the youth, religious minorities and other marginalised groups, to have a voice in their future, and to join forces to prevent exploitation, discrimination and intolerance at all levels. British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said, "We are delighted to expand Aawaz II to

Sindh. Tackling inequalities, supporting reforms, and strengthening services to support marginalised groups are top priorities for the UK. Aawaz has already had great success in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad and Punjab in supporting locally led action, and I look forward to seeing the impact it will have to build a safer and more inclusive Sindh." A key part of Aawaz II's work in Sindh on strengthening systems is led jointly by UNICEF, UNFPA, Care International, and O-

xford Policy Management, who work closely with both federal and provincial governments. To formally launch the programme in Sindh, the British High Commissioner held a launch event where she was joined by Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah. Minister for Social Welfare Sindh, Mir Ali Khan Talpur said, "We need to work collectively to protect the rights of children and other vulnerable groups. I am committed to fully support the Aawaz II programme in Sindh."



CSO calls for improved compliance with WHO FCTC article 5.3

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Alliance for Sustainable Tobacco and Nicotine Control (KP) Friday called on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and health authorities to urgently improve compliance with Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). The Alliance emphasized the need to shield public health policies from the undue influence of the tobacco industry, which continues to interfere with efforts to protect the health and well-being of the people of Pakistan. Article 5.3 of the FCTC explicitly requires parties to protect public health policies from the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. Despite Pakistan ratifying the FCTC in 2004 and incorporating tobacco control measures, tobacco industry interference remains a significant barrier to fully implementing Article 5.3. This interference undermines ongoing efforts to curb tobacco consumption and related health hazards in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—APP

Governor deplores apathy of KP gov't over violent armed clashes in Kurram

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday strongly criticized the provincial government over its apathy to solve the violent territorial dispute among rivals groups in Kurram which had claimed several precious lives in the area so far. In a meeting with Bushra Gohar, the Chairperson of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Organizing Committee of the National Democratic Movement, here at the Governors House, Kundi expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in the area as well as the province. He said that unrest has fostered a sense of insecurity among the people of KP and required immediate attention of the provincial government. The meeting focused on significant provincial issues and the current national situation including the law and order situation, the closure of Torkham border, and the worsening situations in Parachinar. He said that the issue of Torkham border's closure was posing a barrier to trade and public connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Kundi said that he was in contact with the federal government to expedite a resolution to this matter.—APP

Romina advocates for eco-tourism to secure Pakistan's green future

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam stressed the importance of promoting ecotourism to enhance environmental conservation and provide socio-economic advantages to local communities. In her message on World Tourism Day, she highlighted Pakistan's growing global recognition as an attractive destination for eco-friendly travel thanks to its diverse landscapes, rich biodiversity, and commitment to promotion of sustainable tourism practices. World Tourism Day is celebrated worldwide every year on Septem-

ber 27 to honour tourism's significance and the global social, cultural and economic effects it yields. The theme for World Tourism Day this year is "Tourism and Peace". The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam said, "Above all, tourism brings people together and people-to-people contact grow it leads to more peaceful, coherence and connectivity amongst people." She remarked that sustainable and environmental-friendly tourism help transform communities by creating green jobs, fostering inclusion and strengthening local economies socially and economically. She highlighted as a part of promoting environmental-

ly-sustainable tourism in the country, the government's initiatives to plant trees all over the country including one million trees' plantation on the Margalla Hills and setting up camping villages in various northern areas aimed at achieving sustainable tourism development goals. Romina Khurshid explained that with its diverse landscapes, Pakistan is increasingly recognised as a top preferred destination for local and international tourists, who visit different parts of the country to experience unique natural beauty, resource-rich biodiversity, snow-capped mountains and serene valleys, spanning landscapes, desert

lands, fairy meadows and meandering rivers. The Country's stunning areas such as the Northern Areas with peaks like Nanga Parbat, lush valleys like Hunza, and coastal regions along the Arabian Sea, offering unique eco-adventures, the PM's coordinator added. Ms Alam said eco-tourism in Pakistan emphasises local community engagement, ensuring that tourism benefits rural populations economically and socially. "By advancing ecotourism, Pakistan aims to empower local communities, combat food insecurity, and improve access to renewable energy, internet, and clean water creating a win-win scenario for both the environment and the economy," she concluded.

Gov't tireless efforts lead to reduction of inflation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar on Friday said that the incumbent government was working tirelessly in line with the aspirations of the public. As the results, these efforts were evident in the reduction of inflation, he added. He said this during a meeting with members of the Balochistan cabinet, including Minister for Revenue Mir Asim Kurd Gello, Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Durrani, and Parliamentary Secretary for S&GAD Mir Li-aqat Lehari. Syedaal Khan assured the cabinet members of his full cooperation and support in addressing the issues faced by the Balochistan province, said a press release issued here. Deputy Chairman thanked the ministers for their visit and appreciated their ongoing efforts for the development and prosperity in the province. Raheela Durrani appreciated the ef-

forts of the Deputy Chairman, highlighting, "His doors are always open for everyone." "This has strengthened harmony between the province and the federal government," she emphasized. The minister also briefed the Deputy Chairman Senate on the challenges faced by the province and expressed the hope that these issues would be raised at the highest forums. Mir Asim Kurd said, "The federal government is making every possible measure for the development and prosperity of Balochistan." He acknowledged that the presence of the Deputy Chairman had helped resolve many issues. Liaqat Lehari also commended the role of the Deputy Chairman, saying, "Having a leader who has risen from the ranks of a common worker to such a prestigious position has made a noticeable difference." He expressed the optimism that the Upper House would continue to highlight and address the issues of the province.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, talking with Malaysian diplomatic women during inauguration ceremony of 2nd International Tourism Expo.—ONLINE

Pakistan's rich heritage needs digital spotlight

PESHAWAR: As the world celebrated tourism day on Friday with enthusiasm, Pakistan emphasized its unique cultural, adventure, heritage and historical offerings, notably its rich Gandhara and Indus civilizations for foreign tourists to discover by taking advantage of the Govt. friendly tourism policies. This year's theme, "Tourism for Peace," reflected the nation's strong commitment and resolve to leveraging tourism as a vehicle for economic growth, poverty's alleviation, peace and social harmony. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the government departments, NGOs and civil society joined hands to mark the day with a series of events, including walks, seminars, and award ceremonies, highlighting tourism significance for global and regional peace and economic growth for people's socio economic emancipation. KP Culture and Tourism Authority (KPC&TA) held a prominent event at Nishtar Hall in Peshawar in connection with world tourism day, recognizing services of stakeholders, travelers and jour-

nalists for their great contributions to promotion of the tourism sector and awarded them for their impressive work. World Tourism Day, established in 1980, commemorated the adoption of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) statutes in 1970, aiming to foster connections among nations and cultures across borders. Pakistan's diverse landscapes, primitive civilizations and ancient heritage sites—six UNESCO World Heritage sites including Takht Bhai Mardan, Moenjodaro, Taxila, Makli monument Thatta, Shalimar Gardens and Shahi Fort at Lahore, Rohtas fort and five of the world's highest peaks with over 8000 meters heights including K2 and Nanga Parbat in Gilgit Baltistan—offered a rich tapestry for global tourists to explore. Speakers at the key event highlighted the Pakistan's historical significance in terms of different forms of tourism especially of being a home to the Gandhara and Indus civilizations, with archaeological sites revealing artifacts and statues from various eras besides preser-

vation of Lord Buddha's statues and life stories in panels preserved at Peshawar Museum. Bakhtzada Khan, Assistant Director of Archaeology and Museums KP, noted significant discoveries, including human remains dating back to the Early Paleolithic period, which emphasized the region's deep historical roots. He exclusively pointed to the excavations in Soan Valley and Sangaro Cave, revealing evidence of human life as far back as two million years ago. These findings showcased the rich cultural narrative of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where ancient people created tools and pottery, transitioning from a nomadic lifestyle to one that involved settled agriculture and food services. As the discussion shifted to the cultural crossroads represented by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the speakers elaborated on the province's role in the spread of Buddhism, particularly the Gandhara civilization, which flourished under Persian rule in the 6th century BC in the present day KP. Notable figures, such as Alexander the Great, traversed

these lands, contributing to the region's historical significance. "Peshawar Museum, housing over 30,000 artifacts including Gandhara art, serves as a crucial repository of this rich history, attracting monks and followers of Buddhism across the world." Anaya Khan, a student who visited the museum along with parents, expressed awe at the preserved relics of Gandhara civilization and suggested the importance of digital media in showcasing these treasures to a global audience. Impressed by the Lord Buddha's life stories and swords of freedom fighters of Waziristan tribes of the pre partition era at Peshawar Museum, Anaya underlined the need for preparation of special documentaries for TV channels on Gandhara art for education of students for which archeology department and KP culture and tourism authority should take a lead role. Former ambassador Manzoorul Haq emphasized that tourism is intrinsically linked to peace, broader road connectivity and economic stability.—DNA

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

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

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Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
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Motorway Police.9270601-20
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First national tourism awards 2024 held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Tourism Awards of Excellence celebrated with full zest in Islamabad was organized by Discover Pakistan and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2024. The National Tourism Awards seek to recognize and encourage the remarkable endeavors of those who are contributing to the growth and development of tourism and hospitality sector in Pakistan. The event was attended by over 300 participants including Diplomats, Senior Government Officials and Private Sector Stakeholders of tourism and hospitality sector. In the event, awards were distrib-

uted among the individuals and organization who make remarkable contribution in tourism & hospitality sector in 20 different categories. The award recipients were selected by an Independent jury of top professionals of tourism and hospitality sector through an extremely fair and transparent procedure. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of the event stated that "The National Tourism Awards of Excellence highlight the remarkable progress Pakistan is making in the tourism and hospitality sectors. As we celebrate World Tourism Day 2024, under the theme 'Tourism & Peace,' we recognize the power of tourism in promoting peace, understanding, and economic growth. I

congratulate all the winners for their outstanding contributions and encourage further efforts to showcase Pakistan's rich culture, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality to the world." Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) while congratulating Discover Pakistan HD TV for their initiative of 1 National Tourism Awards of Excellence which will hold on the annual basis, expressed that "these National Tourism Awards not only celebrate individual and organizational success but also reflect the overall growth of Pakistan's tourism industry. On World Tourism Day, we renew our commitment to making tourism a key part of Pakistan's

development. These awards recognize the hard work of those ensuring our country becomes a top destination for both local and international tourists, while also promoting peace, sustainability, and cultural exchange." "Discover Pakistan is proud to host the 1st National Tourism Awards of Excellence. This event recognizes the outstanding efforts of those transforming Pakistan's tourism industry and aligns with the global celebration of World Tourism Day. As we honor these individuals and organizations, we also renew our mission to showcase Pakistan's beauty, diversity, and hospitality to the world, using tourism as a bridge for peace and understanding," said the CEO

Discover Pakistan HD TV. He congratulated all the winners and thanked all the supporting partners of 1 National Tourism Awards of Excellence. World Tourism Day, celebrated on September 27th, highlights the importance of tourism in driving economic growth, fostering cultural exchange, and promoting sustainability. This year's theme, "Tourism & Peace," emphasizes tourism's role in encouraging mutual respect, reducing tensions, and building global harmony by connecting people across borders. The day also underscores tourism's contributions to job creation, cultural preservation, and responsible travel, all while promoting international cooperation and sustainable development.

Galiyat valley breaks records with 1m eco-tourists

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of World Tourism Day, Director General GDA Shahrulh Ali stressed the significance of promoting eco-friendly tourism, underscoring the government's commitment to developing sustainable tourism practices and said this year, Galiyat Valley has seen a remarkable influx of tourists, with over 1 million visitors. In an Interview with a private news channel, he said we are committed to sustainable tourism practices that not only promote economic growth but also protect our region's unique environment and cultural heritage. By prioritizing eco-friendly initiatives, Galiyat Valley is poised to become a leading sustainable tourism destination, showcasing Pakistan's natural beauty and commitment to environmental conservation, he added. He said that World Tourism Day, celebrated on September 27, aims to foster awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic value, and its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for 2024, "Tourism and Peace," underscores the significant role tourism plays in promoting international understanding, cultural exchange, and global peace, he added. Shahrulh Ali announced that the Galiyat Tourism Authority is spearheading efforts to promote eco-friendly tourism in the region to enhance the tourist experience, the authority is establishing state-of-the-art car parking facilities. Over 50 hotels and guest houses in Galiyat have been registered to ensure quality accommodations and services for visitors, he said, adding, that this registration drive aims to standardize services, boost the local economy, and enhance transparency in tourism operations. According to Shahrulh Ali, this focus on sustainable tourism will not only preserve Galiyat's natural beauty but also provide a unique experience for visitors.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani in a group photograph with participants during Inauguration ceremony "Green Learning Farm" by knowledge Platform at Islamabad Model School E-7. —APP

ISSI-HSF international conference on climate change fosters meaningful dialogue

ISLAMABAD: The ISSI-HSF International Conference on "Navigating Pakistan's Climate Action Path: Adaptation, Finance, and Technology" featured a keynote address by H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, and a special address by Chief Guest Senator Sherry Rehman. The event drew a significant gathering of diplomats, climate practitioners, and academics, reflecting strong interest in addressing Pakistan's climate challenges. The Inaugural Session was followed by two insightful panel discussions that explored key drivers of climate adaptation, financing mechanisms, and the role of green technology in shaping Pakistan's climate response. Experts emphasized the urgent need for innovative solutions, global cooperation, and strategic investments in climate resilience, stressing that Pakistan must lead by example as it approaches COP29. The discussions highlighted Pakistan's unique vulnerability to climate impacts and its potential to serve as a regional leader in sustainable climate action, setting the stage for continued engagement on the global stage. Session I: Navigating Pakistan's Climate Action Path: Adaptation, Finance, and Technology Moderated by Ms. Aisha Khan, Executive Director for the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change, this session explored innovative ways to adapt to climate change, governance mechanisms to enhance adaptability, and cooperation between various stakeholders, with a focus on the financial aspects of climate action. In her introductory remarks, Ms. Aisha Khan emphasized the urgency of climate action, particularly as the 2030 deadline for adaptation looms closer. She highlighted the increased risks faced by developing countries like Pakistan due to their vulnerability and limited resources. Mr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of UN Development Programme, Pakistan addressed the need for indigenized strategies to tackle climate challenges in Pakistan, emphasizing the role of capacity building, technology transfer, and concessional financing. He noted the developed world's limited contributions to addressing the costs of climate disasters and called for depoliticizing climate issues to foster regional cooperation. Providing an overview of Pakistan's preparations for COP29, Dr. Mazhar Hayat, Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), discussed the government's coordinated efforts to foster public-private partnerships, attract investments in climate projects, and enhance Pakistan's commitment to global climate action. He noted that Pakistan would present itself at COP29 as a responsible nation, ready to participate in global climate efforts. Mr. Jamil Ahmed from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) reassured of the UN's continued support to Pakistan in addressing climate-driven disasters. He emphasized the need for immediate action to address the agricultural sector's vulnerability due to floods, droughts, and water scarcity. Dr. Faisal Ali, Research Fellow, PIDE discussed the importance of alternative economic measures for climate resilience, advocating for a shift to paperless work environments.

QAU holds moot on governance in Pak, South Asia'

Dr. Waseem stated that despite some devolution of power, Pakistan's federal structure remains centralized, creating an imbalanced federation. He stressed the importance of pluralism and provincial representation, cautioning that separating issues of ethnicity from territoriality often fuels political tensions

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), in collaboration with the Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF), hosted yesterday a one-day conference titled "Democracy, Devolution, and Plural Structures of Governance in Pakistan and South Asia". This conference brought together leading academics from across South Asia to explore the processes of democratization and devolution in the region. The event began with an inaugural address by Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dean of Social Sciences at QAU, who emphasized the significance of democratization in Pakistan. He noted that the conference was particularly meaningful as it featured the participation of four generations of professors and students. Dr. Muhammad

Waseem, a renowned political scientist, former Chairman of SPIR, and current professor at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), delivered the keynote address. He focused on the impacts of the 18th Amendment and the challenges facing federalism in Pakistan. Dr. Waseem stated that despite some devolution of power, Pakistan's federal structure remains centralized, creating an imbalanced federation. He stressed the importance of pluralism and provincial representation, cautioning that separating issues of ethnicity from territoriality often fuels political tensions. The first panel, titled "Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations of Democracy, Devolution, and Diversity Accommodation," was moderated by Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal. Dr. Ejaz Hussain, Associate Professor at the Lahore School of Economics, presented data-driven insights on democratization

and autocratization in the Global North and South. He noted that the world is witnessing a global democratic backsliding, with an increasing number of states exhibiting autocratic tendencies. Dr. Asma Faiz, Associate Professor at LUMS, discussed centripetalism and consociationalism as governance methods for accommodating diversity. She explained that while consociationalism rewards maintaining ethnic identity, centripetalism fosters interdependence between multi-ethnic parties, shaping democratic systems in diverse societies. In his talk, Professor Dr. Syed Riffa Hussain from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) addressed the destabilizing impact of emerging technologies on the global order. He warned that the decay of the rule-based international system, especially in the West, is leading to a growing sense of disorder and an-

Experts call for urgent water management solutions in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A national consultative workshop was held here on Friday, which was attended by the experts from across Pakistan to explore solutions for the country's growing water crisis. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) under the UK Aid-funded Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme hosted the event with an aim to enhance water management strategies in line with the National Water Policy. Over 100 participants, including government officials, private sector leaders, representatives from development agencies, academics, and local community members, attended the workshop. They discussed various approaches to tackle water scarcity and highlighted strategies successfully applied in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) through the WRAP Programme. One of the key speakers, Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, IWMI's Director for Water, Food, and Ecosystems, emphasized the importance of data in managing water resources. He pointed out gaps in Pakistan's current water management systems, particularly the lack of an early warning system to prevent floods and other disasters. Dr. Hafeez also discussed the challenge posed by inaccurate groundwater data, which affects decision-making related to water management across the country. He provided an overview of the WRAP Programme, which focuses on improving water accounting in Pakistan. He explained that IWMI had developed a water accounting framework for Okara district, along with a Groundwater Management Information System (GMIS) to address water shortages in Punjab. The system, first piloted in Rahim Yar Khan and Okara, will eventually be expanded to other areas. He added that specialized towers had been installed in various districts, including Okara, Chakwal, Rahim Yar Khan, and Sheikhupura, to gather essential data on water and carbon emissions in agriculture.—DNA

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR MICROFINANCE BANKING CHANNELS

Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIA), the national flag carrier of Pakistan, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputable and experienced Microfinance Banking Channels to provide Mobile Wallet services for PIA's ticketing. We are seeking proposals from qualified entities that can enhance and streamline our online booking platform making it more efficient and user friendly.

Eligibility Criteria: Interested firms must meet the following eligibility criteria:

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4. Dedicated support is required from the service provider to address all type of concerns promptly and effectively.
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6. Any services charges levied by the service provider will be borne by the passenger.

The selected party will be expected to deliver the following services:

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2. Provide a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) report on a daily / monthly basis, detailing transaction volumes, issues encountered, and overall performance metrics.
3. Promote PIA through an integrated CRM platform that includes a customer feedback mechanism to enhance service quality and customer satisfaction.

Please note that during Phase 1, the issuance of tickets through the PIA Call Center, which operates on Book-on-Hold (BOH) model of the Hitit system, will require manual handling of refunds and reissuance. These processes will be managed directly at PIA counters. The SOP will be finalized by PIA & Service Providers.

However, in **Phase 2,** after the completion of the necessary development work for the automation of refund and reissuance processes by Hitit, these functions will be fully automated, enhancing efficiency and reducing manual intervention.

The proposal can be sent on following address:

General Manager Digital Marketing
Room no. 111, PIA Building AKM Fazul Haq Road,
Blue Area, Islamabad - Pakistan.
Email: gm.dm@piac.aero

Briefs

ANF seizes 61 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 61 drugs worth Rs 40 million and arrested three accused including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation, 3.8 kg hashish was recovered from the luggage of two Dubai-bound women at Islamabad International Airport. 30 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from UK at a courier office in Chaklala Rawalpindi and 29 grams weed oil was recovered from a parcel sent from Scotland at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 4 kg ice was recovered from the possession of an accused during an operation conducted at Badami Bagh Lory Adda Lahore. 1.3 kg hashish was recovered from a parcel sent from Peshawar at a private cargo office at Allama Iqbal Airport Lahore. 52 kg morphine hidden in an uninhabited area of Gali Malik Wali in Chaman area was recovered. Cases under Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

Experts stress importance of dengue prevention measures

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Health experts sounded the alarm on Friday, emphasizing individual responsibility and systemic reforms to protect public health and prevent the alarming rise of Dengue fever, which is particularly concerning given that 80% of cases show no symptoms. Talking to a private news channel, Renowned health expert Dr Javed Akram highlights the critical need for proactive measures to combat the spread of Dengue, a disease that can have severe consequences if it is not controlled. Dr. Javed Akram is emphasizing the importance of awareness drives during rainy weather to prevent the spread of Dengue fever. According to his suggestions, people can minimize their risk of contracting the disease by taking a few simple precautions. He said it is essential to be aware of the symptoms of Dengue fever, which include fever, headache, and severe joint and muscle pain. If you experience any of these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. He said to remember, prevention is key, and by following these simple measures, we can reduce the risk of contracting Dengue fever and keep our communities safe and healthy. To prevent a possible outbreak, it is crucial to control the growth of larvae and eliminate mosquito breeding sites. This requires immediate action to remove standing water from various locations, such as flowerpots, bird baths, clogged drains, and low-lying areas. Inside homes, potential breeding sites include kitchen sinks, bathroom floors, and stored water containers, he suggested. Another expert Dr Rana Jawad Asghar added that residents can take proactive measures to eliminate mosquito habitats.

Heavy rain cause hotel wall collapse

ISLAMABAD: A hotel wall collapsed in Rawalpindi's Mandi Morr area on Friday due to heavy rain, leaving one person critically injured. Rescue Official 1122 Informed that the incident occurred amidst intense heavy rain that lashed the city, causing widespread destruction and chaos, a Private news channel reported. Rescue 112 teams, including emergency services and local authorities, rushed to the scene to provide aid and evacuate those trapped under the debris.

Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad celebrates 79th Independence Day

The Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, diplomats, and their families attired in traditional dresses and colorful ethnic outfits, brought a lively and authentic Indonesian ambiance to the event

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad hosted a majestic and cordial diplomatic reception to celebrate the Anniversary of 79th Indonesia's Independence Day at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel on 26 September 2024. Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Hon. Mr. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while State Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Power, Hon. Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik was also present. Approximately 400 attendees from diverse backgrounds, including members of diplomatic corps, Pakistani government officials, politicians, business leaders, media professionals and others made the celebration vibrant and well-attended. The Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, diplomats, and their families attired in traditional dresses and colorful ethnic outfits, brought a lively and authentic Indonesian ambiance to the event. The venue itself was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements, Batik fabric, and cultural ornaments, which further enriched by posters of the founding fathers of the respective both countries, President Sukarno of Indonesia and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah of Pakistan. The decorations seamlessly blended symbolism and aesthetics, celebrating the shared values of the two nations. The theme of the reception was "New Nusantara, Advanced Indonesia", which referred to the current massive development on infrastructure and connectivity across the Indonesian archipelago, including the Indonesian new Capital City of Nusantara (IKN). Indeed, within one decade under incumbent President Joko Widodo, Indonesia has focused on improving the mobility of goods, people, and services through huge investment in infrastructure and connectivity. "Infrastructure projects across



Indonesia is critical, as the Government of Indonesia will never let certain parts of the country left behind. Once again, improving connectivity and infrastructure means a lot, not only in strengthening economy but also in bolstering the unity of Indonesia." Chargé d'Affaires (CdA) Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma said in his remarks while he wore the traditional Javanese outfit inspired by the youth movement in the era of struggle for independence. "Indeed, Indonesia is not yet a role model, but I would say that Indonesia is an example for political stability, na-

tional unity, and economic prosperity," he added highlighting those issues in his extensive visits to several chambers of commerce and industry, universities, madrasahs, and think tanks in Pakistan. Touching upon economic cooperation, CdA Rahmat Hindiarta noted that Indonesia and Pakistan have significant untapped opportunities in trade and investment. He invited the Pakistani business community to attend the Indonesia and South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA) on 7 October 2024, as well as the prestigious Trade Expo Indonesia on 9-12

October 2024. In his turn, the Federal Minister Pirzada said that Indonesia and Pakistan are two brotherly countries that share firm views on regional and international issues as members of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other international organizations. It is expected that the bilateral relations, including economic cooperation continue to grow. "On behalf of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, I convey congratulations to Indonesia on its 79th Independence Day," said Minister Pirzada concluded his remarks. The diplomatic reception

commenced with moment of silence to remember and honor those had sacrificed their lives in Gaza, occupied territories of Palestine, and surrounding countries in the region. The following programs were Indonesian and Pakistani national anthems, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, and documentary video on Indonesian new Capital City of Nusantara in Kalimantan island. Another major attraction was the "Saman Dance" from Indonesian Province of Aceh performed with rhythmic precision by dancers seated in a row. The dancers were the Indonesian students in

Islamabad. They mesmerized the audience with synchronized hand clapping, chest slapping, and graceful body movements, reflecting Indonesia's vibrant cultural identity. The performance garnered enthusiastic applause, with the audience expressing admiration for Indonesia's artistic and cultural legacy. One of the highlights of the evening was a captivating fashion show, showcasing Indonesia's rich cultural heritage. Traditional costumes with distinct textures, colors, motifs, and symbolic designs enchanted the audience, offering a vivid glimpse into

the country's diverse traditions. The audience was also treated to a sumptuous spread that featured both local and continental cuisine, with Indonesian signature delicacies and drinks stealing the spotlight. "I really enjoy your event. Programs, performances, foods, and everything here are the best and well-organized," praised CEO Centaurus, Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas, while in parallel the Gemu Famire dance started. The dance becomes one of the mainstays of Fashmob's Indonesian promotional activities abroad.

OPF sets up 24 educational institutions in country

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has established a high quality education system comprising of 24 educational institutions throughout the country including Azad Jammu & Kashmir. These include two state-of-the-art colleges, OPF Girls College, F-8/2 Islamabad, and OPF Boys College, H-8/4, Islamabad and 22 secondary and higher secondary level educational institutions. An official source told APP here on Friday, at present more than 17,000 students are studying at OPF institutions out of which more than 2500 students are children of overseas Pakistanis. 1282 teaching and non-teaching staff are employed in these institutions. He said that OPF working under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) and had been established

under the Emigration Rules made under Emigration Ordinance 1979, Articles of Association, and Memorandum of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, OPF Education Division is vested with the following responsibilities including giving of scholarships, stipends or grants to the children of the emigrants for studies in the field of science, technology, art and management in Pakistan and abroad. The education system provides quality education for the children of Overseas Pakistanis from Pre-Nursery to Graduation Level. Educational institutions in Islamabad also provide education in O & A Level streams. OPF provides the structures, human resources, budget and administrative & management support to ensure that the quality of service delivery is maintained at a high level, he added. OPF was constantly

drawing up strategies, policies and plans for educational reforms and development at OPF Educational institutions. Education Division drafts relevant rules and regulations for schools in OPF Education System and supervises their implementation. The source revealed that, OPF Girls College was established, in 1985, in the heart of Capital city, Sector F-8/2 Islamabad, on an area of 100 kanals. College is providing quality education from Pre-nursery to Graduation level to the children of Overseas Pakistanis and general public for the last 29 years. Presently 4,800 students are enrolled in the college out of which 702 are children of Overseas Pakistanis. The institution has hostel facility for the children of OP's. It can provide boarding/lodging facility to more than 100 students from Primary to Graduation Level.

PWD store in Rawalpindi caught in massive fire

ISLAMABAD: A massive fire erupted in the upper portion of the Pakistan Works Department (PWD) grocery store in Rawalpindi on Friday, sending panic and chaos through the area.

According to initial reports, Rescue Officials 1122 said the blaze started around 11 o'clock and quickly spread, trapping an unspecified number of people inside the building, a private news channel reported. Eyewitnesses describe scenes of desperation as people try to escape the inferno, with flames and thick smoke billowing out of the upper floors. Rescue teams are racing against time to safely evacuate those trapped inside the Pakistan Works Department (PWD) grocery store. Rescue teams have successfully utilized the building's lift to evacuate people trapped inside the store, eye-witnessed added. Rescue 1122 Spokesperson said that our teams are working tirelessly and hopeful of completing evacuation soon, adding.—APP

Salma lauds PM, CM for controlling kitchen item prices

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Chief Minister Task Force on Price Control Punjab, Salma Butt Friday credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz for achieving a single-digit inflation rate and effectively controlling kitchen item prices which is a significant milestone for the welfare of citizens. Citizens in Punjab are reaping the benefits of a single-digit inflation rate, which is a remarkable achievement for the government, she said while talking to PTV news channel. This milestone is particularly significant given the challenges many countries face in maintaining low inflation rates, she added. This accomplishment is a testament to the effective governance and leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif, who has a reputation for being a diligent administrator.—APP

Ahsan for adopting export-led growth strategy with efficient

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need to adopt an export-led economic growth strategy by enhancing the country's seaports and shipping services. "This is the only way to achieve national prosperity and safeguard sovereignty," he said in a televised address while chairing a meeting of the prime minister's committee to address logistic issues faced by seaports in Karachi. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including the Secretary of Mari-

time Affairs, the Secretary of Railways and members of the Planning Commission. He called for advancing the national growth strategy by declaring sustainability a top priority, noting that as the growth rate increases, there would be pressure on imports, which requires sufficient foreign exchange. Highlighting the importance of logistic services for increased exports, the minister vowed to make the country's seaports more efficient and competitive, with fast container delivery services in collaboration with the private sector. Citing a World Bank Containers Competitiveness Report 2022, which reviewed 350 seaports and

placed Karachi and Bin Qasim ports at numbers 84 and 90 respectively, he expressed a firm resolve to include Pakistani seaports among the list of the top 50 equipped with the "fastest clearance services." He emphasized the need for Pakistani goods to be transported via Pakistani ships, making exports the centerpiece of the economy. He noted that all countries that achieved export-led growth ensured a smooth supply chain with efficient, competitive and rapid clearance services at their seaports. He directed the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to prepare an action plan to improve the efficiency of seaports

and expedite clearance services. Ahsan Iqbal underscored the importance of seizing the current opportunity, bolstered by a three-year "insurance policy" from the recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) program. The minister shared Pakistan's 77-year struggle to adopt an export-oriented economic policy, citing past initiatives like Vision 2010 and Vision 2025, which fell victim to political instability. He emphasized that Pakistan could no longer afford uncertainty or destabilization, as it had started moving on a sustainable growth trajectory with key economic indicators showing positive results.

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US-China tech war

THE domestic narratives employed by the United States and China in framing their technology competition reveal starkly different approaches and underlying strategic objectives. The US consistently portrays the competition as a catalyst for domestic renewal and a critical national security imperative. This narrative is built on several interconnected themes that resonate with American values and concerns. At the forefront is the emphasis on job creation and economic revitalisation. President Joe Biden has positioned the technological race as an opportunity for large-scale employment growth and economic rejuvenation. His projection of "over 70,000 jobs across both states [Idaho and New York]", from a single investment under the Chips and Science Act, exemplifies this approach. By tying technological advancement to tangible economic benefits for American workers, the administration aims to garner broad public support for significant government spending on technology initiatives. Closely linked to this economic messaging is the framing of technological capabilities as crucial to national security and economic resilience. US officials frequently draw connections between technological self-sufficiency and national safety. Referring to the semiconductor shortages during the Covid-19 pandemic, Biden said earlier this year, when announcing US\$6.1 billion in federal funding to Micron: "I determined that I'm never going to let us be vulnerable to wait lines again." This statement encapsulates the sentiment. Biden to introduce new restrictions on US investments in China, declares tech 'emergency' Such a framing serves a dual purpose: it justifies protectionist measures as a matter of national security while also emphasising the need for domestic manufacturing capabilities. However, the US narrative is careful to balance these protectionist tendencies with a commitment to global economic engagement. The administration has consistently positioned its actions as targeted measures rather than a broad decoupling from the global economy. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan's "small yard, high fence" metaphor aptly summarises this nuanced approach, which aims to safeguard critical technologies without severing beneficial economic ties. Underlying these themes is a persistent appeal to America's history of technological leadership. Statements like Biden's "We invented those chips here in America" serve to invoke national pride and frame current initiatives not as a new direction, but as a return to form. This rhetorical strategy aims to build confidence in America's ability to maintain its technological edge while motivating public and private-sector investment in innovation. In stark contrast, China's domestic narrative centres on themes of inevitable progress and unjust suppression by external forces, primarily the US. Chinese officials consistently declare that the country's technological advancement is an unstoppable force. The assertive statement by Lou Qinjian, spokesman for the National People's Congress, that no country could choke China's development "for any technology known to man" exemplifies this confidence-building rhetoric, designed to assure the Chinese public of their nation's capabilities in the face of external challenges. US-China conflict 'unimaginable' says Beijing's top diplomat Wang Yi A cornerstone of China's messaging is the framing of US actions as unfair attempts to stifle the nation's legitimate development.



Kazakhstan nuclear power programme

ON October 6, Kazakhstan will hold a referendum to decide whether to build a nuclear power plant. This issue has been the subject of intense debate in the country for several years. Currently, 412 nuclear reactors in 31 countries with a combined capacity of 370 gigawatts generate nearly 10 per cent of the world's electricity. There are new reactors under construction in 18 countries, and another 30 countries are either planning to launch nuclear energy programmes or considering such a possibility. Kazakhstan is among them. Our country has several reasons to consider nuclear energy. A primary factor is the rapidly growing energy consumption. In 2023, Kazakhstan became a net importer of electricity as it struggled with a power deficit. While we continue to develop renewable energy, particularly wind and solar, only nuclear power can provide the large-scale, stable supply needed. Second, Kazakhstan holds almost 45 per cent of the world's uranium reserves, making it a leading producer and exporter. Rather than limiting its role to uranium mining and fuel rod exports, Kazakhstan aims to enrich uranium to industry standards for domestic energy production. Moreover, Kazakhstan has a strong reputation in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and is a reliable partner in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We closed the Semipalatinsk test site in 1991 and voluntarily relinquished what was then the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal, which was stationed on our territory. Thirty years ago, we joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Kazakhstan also hosts the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank, which guarantees its members access to nuclear fuel if it cannot be sourced through commercial means. Kazakhstan also has the technical and scientific capabilities to launch and sustain a nuclear industry. From 1973 to 1999, a fast breeder reactor operated in the western part of the country, generating electricity and desalinating Caspian Sea water. The National Nuclear Centre, established at the former Semipalatinsk test site, focuses on nuclear energy development. Several universities offer nuclear science programmes. Building and operating a nuclear power plant would further advance Kazakhstan's expertise in nuclear science, particularly in practical applications. Finally, constructing a nuclear power plant would be a major step towards meeting Kazakhstan's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. In 2020, the country pledged a 15 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. In 2021, Kazakhstan set a goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Nuclear power generation can significantly reduce our current dependence on coal and help us achieve climate-related goals. At the same time, it is understandable that not everyone in our country supports the idea of a nuclear power plant. The Semipalatinsk test site was closed in 1991 because of public pressure from the grass-roots movement Nevada-Semipalatinsk. This movement united both the victims of nuclear testing and civil society activists, ultimately succeeding in closing a dark chapter in Kazakhstan's history.

Israel's impunity: The international failure to stop the violence

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The question remains: who will stop Israel from this continued violence? The answer seems elusive, but several potential avenues exist. The most obvious is the role of international law and bodies like the International Criminal Court (ICC). In recent years, the ICC has made moves to investigate Israeli actions in Palestine, particularly focusing on war crimes

THE situation in the Middle East has once again reached a critical juncture, with Israel's ongoing violence and military operations against Palestine and Lebanon raising grave concerns. For decades, the Palestinian people have been subjected to a relentless cycle of occupation, displacement, and brutal aggression. This continued bloodshed prompts a pressing question: who, if anyone, will step in to stop Israel from its unchecked violence, brutality, and what many perceive as state-sponsored terrorism? Israel's actions in Gaza, the West Bank, and against Palestinian civilians are not isolated incidents. These are part of a larger, systemic issue that has existed since the creation of Israel in 1948. What we see today is the continuation of a long history of dispossession and violent enforcement of Israeli control over Palestinian lands. Homes are demolished, civilians are killed, children are left traumatized, and entire communities are displaced under the banner of security. Yet, the world watches, and little is done to halt this relentless oppression. The hypocrisy of the international community, particularly the United Nations, is glaring. On the one hand, the United Nations holds its high-profile meetings in the American state of New York, talking endlessly about peace, human rights, and the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts. Yet, on the other hand, Israel, a nation that often claims to be acting in self-defense, is ruthlessly massacring Muslims by raining gunpowder and bombs on innocent civilians in Palestine and Lebanon. The disconnect between the rhetoric of peace and the reality on the ground reveals a deep failure of international institutions that are supposed to protect the vulnerable and uphold justice. While diplomats debate in air-conditioned rooms, entire families in Gaza are obliterated, and Lebanese towns are reduced to rubble, raising the question of whether the global powers are genuinely committed to peace or complicit in perpetuating violence. This disturbing contrast highlights the impotence of the UN and its inability to enforce its own resolutions, particularly when it comes to holding Israel accountable. Despite numerous calls for ceasefires and humanitarian access, Israel's military operations continue unabated, shielded by its powerful allies. This brutal cycle of violence and the inaction of international organizations lead many to conclude that the UN has become a stage for empty promises, incapable of stopping the bloodshed.

While the world watches, Palestinians and Lebanese Muslims are left to wonder who will stand up for their right to live in peace and dignity, as the bodies of their loved ones pile up amid the smokescreen of diplomatic inaction. Despite mounting global outrage and condemnation, the international community has largely failed to intervene in any meaningful way. The United Nations has issued countless resolutions, and world leaders have voiced concern, yet Israel continues its policies with impunity. The lack of accountability raises serious questions about the effectiveness of international mechanisms meant to uphold human rights and prevent atrocities. A major factor in Israel's ability to act with such impunity is the unwavering support it receives from powerful allies, particularly the United States. The U.S. has been Israel's most staunch ally, providing billions of dollars in military aid annually and consistently shielding it from international scrutiny. Time and again, the U.S. has used its veto power at the UN Security Council to block resolutions condemning Israel's actions, effectively paralyzing the international body's ability to take meaningful action. The Western media's portrayal of the conflict also plays a crucial role in shaping public perception. Israel's actions are often framed as self-defense against terrorism, particularly against groups like Hamas. While no one can deny Israel's right to defend itself, this narrative conveniently ignores the broader context of occupation, apartheid-like conditions, and the disproportionate use of force against a largely defenseless population. By controlling the narrative, Israel ensures that its actions are seen as defensive rather than aggressive, deflecting criticism and avoiding accountability. Yet, behind the political maneuvering and media framing lies the stark reality of a people living under siege. Gaza, often described as the world's largest open-air prison, is subject to airstrikes, blockades, and collective punishment. The West Bank continues to see illegal settlements expand, and Palestinians live under a system that restricts their freedom of movement, access to resources, and basic human rights. These actions meet many definitions of state terrorism, where the purpose is not just to suppress but to instill fear and break the will of an entire population. The question remains: who will stop Israel from this continued violence? The answer seems elusive, but several potential avenues exist. The most obvious is the role of

international law and bodies like the International Criminal Court (ICC). In recent years, the ICC has made moves to investigate Israeli actions in Palestine, particularly focusing on war crimes. While this offers a glimmer of hope for justice, the process is slow, and without widespread international support, its impact is uncertain. Another avenue could be the resurgence of global civil society movements. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, for instance, has gained traction in recent years, pressuring companies and governments to cut ties with Israel over its treatment of Palestinians. Such grassroots movements can create the kind of international pressure that governments seem unwilling or unable to apply. Moreover, the Arab world, once united in its opposition to Israel, has become fragmented. Many Arab states, particularly in the Gulf, have normalized relations with Israel, prioritizing economic and strategic interests over solidarity with the Palestinian cause. However, recent events, including increased violence in Gaza, have reignited public outcry in these countries, putting pressure on their governments to reconsider their alliances with Israel. If Arab nations were to unify once again and leverage their political and economic influence, they could play a crucial role in halting Israeli aggression. Ultimately, the most significant change may come from within Israel itself. There is a growing movement of Israelis who oppose the occupation and the continued violence against Palestinians. While still a minority, these groups represent a shift in Israeli society, one that recognizes the moral and political consequences of their country's actions. The international community must support and amplify these voices, encouraging a future where peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians are possible. In conclusion, the path to stopping Israel's ongoing bloodshed and brutality is neither simple nor straightforward. It requires a multifaceted approach involving international law, civil society, diplomatic pressure, and internal change within Israel itself. The world cannot continue to stand by and watch as these atrocities unfold. It is not just a matter of politics or strategy; it is a matter of humanity and justice. The question, therefore, is not just who will stop Israel but when will the world finally find the moral courage to act? The answer to that question may well determine the future of peace in the Middle East.

Julian Rivera

Zionist aggression is part of a wider framework of imperialist domination that has long exploited the Middle East for geopolitical and economic gain. As the imperialist centre, Germany and other Western countries have a direct...

THE current escalation of the Zionist aggression against Gaza and Lebanon marks yet another chapter in the brutal and ongoing violence perpetrated by "Israel" against the Palestinian and Lebanese people. For the past 12 months, "Israel" has been committing a genocide in Gaza, further intensifying the suffering of a population that has endured more than 16 years of siege. Now Israeli military attacks in Lebanon have escalated, with intensive bombing campaigns, largely targeting civilian areas. In this context, it is now urgent for the anti-imperialist movement in the imperialist centers not only to speak out but to escalate its resistance. The time for passive solidarity is over. What is needed now is a sustained and powerful movement that challenges the complicity of our own government and supports the just struggle for liberation of the Palestinian and Lebanese people. This article is a call to action, urging those of us in the heart of imperialism to step up our protests and stand firmly against Zionist aggression and the structures of global imperialism that support it. The ongoing onslaught against Gaza and Lebanon cannot be seen in a vacuum. It is the latest manifestation of a settler-colonial project that has been ongoing for over a century, supported and sustained by Western imperial powers. The roots of Zionist expansionism can be traced back to the early 20th century, culminating in the Nakba of 1948, when more than 700,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes during the creation of "Israel". This event laid the foundations for a system of ethnic cleansing and apartheid that continues to this day. "Israel's" occupation of Palestinian territories following the 1967 Six-Day War further entrenched its colonial ambitions, with illegal settlements expanding throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem in direct violation of interna-

tional law. Gaza, meanwhile, has been subjected to one of the harshest blockades in modern history since 2007, turning it into an open-air prison where over two million Palestinians live under siege and deprived of basic human rights. In Lebanon, Zionist aggression has followed a similarly destructive pattern. After the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, "Israel" occupied southern Lebanon for almost two decades, causing the deaths of tens of thousands of Lebanese civilians. The 2006 war was another brutal chapter, with "Israel's" bombing of civilian infrastructure, homes, and villages causing widespread destruction and loss of life. Even after these formal occupations, "Israel" has continued to carry out military assaults and violations of Lebanese airspace, keeping the region in a constant state of tension. At every stage of this colonial project, the Zionist entity has been supported by the Western powers, especially the United States and Europe. The US has provided billions of dollars in military aid, advanced weaponry, and unconditional political support. Most European countries have consistently supported "Israel's" actions under the guise of "self-defense". In light of this historical continuity, it is clear that the Zionist project is not in a "defensive" mode, but is a long-standing colonial power supported by imperial powers for geopolitical interests. Germany's support for "Israel" is rooted in a complex mix of historical guilt, strategic alliances, and geopolitical interests. Since the end of the Second World War, the German state has framed its relationship with the Zionist entity through the lens of responsibility for the Holocaust, an atrocity for which Germany bears undeniable and profound guilt. While this historical context is at least understandable, it has been weaponized to justify and shield "Israel's" violent colonial policies in the region from criticism, with the German government pledging unconditional support for "Israel's" "right to exist" and its "self-defense" against any perceived threat. Beyond "historical guilt", Germany's support for "Israel" is also rooted in strategic considerations. "Israel" serves as a key ally for the Western powers in the Middle East, a region of immense geopolitical importance. Germany, as part of the wider Western alliance, benefits from maintaining strong ties with "Israel", which plays a pivotal role in securing Western economic and political interests in the region, from controlling natural resources to countering regional adversaries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran. Germany's material support for "Israel" is extensive and wide-ranging. One of the most visible forms of this support is the arms trade. Germany has supplied "Israel" with advanced weapons systems, including submarines capable of launching nuclear missiles, which enhance "Israel's" military dominance in the region. These arms deals, often partly financed by German taxpayers, are presented as contributing to "Israel's"

"security", but in reality, they fuel "Israel's" ability to continue its occupation and aggression against its neighbours. In addition, Germany provides diplomatic protection to the Zionist entity in international bodies such as the United Nations, where it consistently votes against resolutions that seek to hold "Israel" accountable for violations of international law. This diplomatic shield, undermined by US support in the UN Security Council, allows "Israel" to act with almost total impunity, knowing that it will face no meaningful consequences from the international community. Within Germany itself, any criticism of Israeli policies is regularly met with accusations of anti-Semitism, effectively silencing any criticism of Israeli violence and colonialism. This conflation of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism is a deliberate political tactic used to stifle dissent and suppress the growing Palestine solidarity movement. The equation of all criticism of "Israel" with anti-Jewish hatred is, ironically, itself anti-Semitic and denies the Palestinian people their right to resist occupation and apartheid. The result is a climate of fear and censorship in which activists, academics, and even politicians who speak out against Israeli aggression are demonized and marginalized. This dynamic has had a chilling effect on the Palestine solidarity movement in Germany. Groups campaigning for Palestinian rights, including supporters of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, have been banned from public spaces, events have been cancelled and individuals have lost their jobs for expressing solidarity with Palestine. Repression has reached such a level that even discussing Palestinian liberation is considered taboo in many public forums. Zionist aggression is part of a wider framework of imperialist domination that has long exploited the Middle East for geopolitical and economic gain. As the imperialist centre, Germany and other Western countries have a direct role in perpetuating this violence. The anti-imperialist movement within these nations therefore has a pressing responsibility to speak out and act against these injustices, not only as a matter of solidarity with the oppressed, but as part of the wider struggle against global imperialism. Silence in the face of such brutality is complicity, and the time has come to escalate the resistance. The Palestinian and Lebanese people are enduring colonial violence that echoes the struggles of other oppressed groups throughout history. The Zionist project in Palestine, backed by Western imperial powers, mirrors earlier forms of settler colonialism and racial domination, from apartheid South Africa to the colonization of Algeria. In each of these cases, the Western powers profited from the exploitation and subjugation of the colonized, just as they are doing now by supporting "Israel's" expansionist policies. For those of us in the imperialist centre, solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon is a crucial part of dismantling the system of imperialism that oppresses people worldwide.

The necessity of global solidarity becomes clear when we examine the intersections between imperialist domination in the Middle East and other global struggles for justice. The same economic, military and political forces that maintain "Israel's" occupation of Palestine are deeply involved in the exploitation of other regions, from the plundering of resources in Africa to wars in Latin America and the Global South. The weapons sold to "Israel" to bomb Gaza are often the same as those used by NATO allies to suppress other liberation movements around the world. The police equipment and tactics that "Israel" is testing on Palestinians are also being used in Western countries to repress protests. Thus, the struggle against Zionism is inseparable from the struggle against all forms of oppression. Street demonstrations must be complemented by more disruptive forms of protest that challenge the status quo and the West's complicity. Boycotts, such as those advocated by the BDS movement, should be promoted more aggressively, targeting companies and institutions that profit from the occupation and arms sales to "Israel". These same corporations and institutions should also be confronted directly, as often as possible. Palestine Action in the UK has shown: Support for "Israel" will only end when it's no longer financially profitable. Worker strikes can be a powerful tool, especially in industries linked to the military industrial complex or those involved in facilitating the arms trade to "Israel". For example, port workers in Europe have in the past refused to unload arms shipments destined for "Israel" – actions like this need to be expanded and replicated, if necessary, even without the support of the trade unions. At the same time, it is important to connect different movements. The struggle for Palestinian liberation should be understood as a common cause with the struggles against militarism, environmental destruction and fascism. Solidarity with Palestine should be a core principle of any anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist or progressive movement operating within the imperialist centre. Only by uniting these struggles can we build the kind of mass movement capable of challenging the deeply rooted forces of imperialism and colonialism. Political forces that don't have a clear position on this issue – or worse, are pro-Zionist – cannot be worked with in any way. Lastly, this moment calls for a level of political education that challenges mainstream narratives and exposes the links between Zionism and global imperialism. Activists must work to create spaces for discussion and debate, especially in countries like Germany, where criticism of "Israel" is often suppressed. By confronting false narratives, we can foster a more informed, courageous and principled movement that can withstand the pressures of state repression and media manipulation. Solidarity is not a passive stance; it is an active, ongoing commitment to fight for justice, and the time to act is now.

Briefs

PRCCSF declared No.1 among 20 BRI partner countries

BEIJING: Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) has been recognized as the best among 20 research centers, established under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The center received this prestigious appreciation award in Beijing during the annual meeting of the International Academic Network for a Community with Shared Future. This meeting brought together leaders from 20 research centers representing over 100 BRI partner countries to foster international cooperation, share experiences, and discuss future strategies, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. During their speeches, participants emphasized the need to strengthen academic partnerships and support a shared vision of a harmonious global community. After receiving the award, Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director of PRCCSF told Gwadar Pro that this marks the fourth consecutive year the center has been recognized as the Outstanding Research Center. "We ranked first in 2021, 2022, 2023, and now again in 2024. —APP

Indonesia-Pak economic partnership for common prosperity: Pirzada

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for housing and works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Thursday said that the economic partnership between Indonesia and Pakistan is a common goal for common prosperity. The minister said that Pakistan and Indonesia have proved themselves as strong advocates of multilateralism and regional cooperation. Federal Minister for housing and works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada said this while addressing to the 79th years independence day celebration of Indonesia here. Indonesia-Pak economic partnership for common prosperity: Pirzada Today, on the Independence day of Indonesia, it is the wish of every person of Pakistan that Indonesia should set its economic development goals in a peaceful manner and the bilateral partnership for economic development between the two countries will be stronger, he said. The minister said that there is a need to increase economic and trade coordination between Pakistan and Indonesia, which both governments are implementing. —APP

Pakistan intends to direct trade route to Tajikistan, road access to Central Asia

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan intends to have direct trade route to Tajikistan and road access to Central Asian countries for which corridor of China and Afghanistan may be under consideration. In this regard, Kurakram Highway, Khunjarab, Kashgar, Murghab and Dushanbe route will be utilized for two-way trade. This was discussed in the meeting of Minister of Transport of Tajikistan Azim Ibrahim and Minister for Communications, Board of Investment & Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan at Beijing, China as sideline meeting on the eve of Global Transport Forum. Aleem Khan observed that Pakistan is ready for the meeting of Joint Ministerial Committee and Joint Working Group with Tajikistan. He welcomed the starting of direct flight between the two countries as a positive impact of his recent visit to Tajikistan in May. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan wants to promote bilateral trade with all Central Asian countries for which more initiative will be taken. He discussed to solve the problems being faced by trawlers and drivers going to Tajikistan. —APP

PM invites American banks for investment in key sectors

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited American banks to invest in Pakistan's key sectors of infrastructure, energy, technology, agriculture, and assured of the government's commitment to maintain a stable macro-economic environment to facilitate foreign investors. The prime minister said this while talking to a delegation of prominent Pakistani American bankers on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly. The delegation comprised high-ranking representatives from prestigious banks including JP Morgan, Natixis Corps & Investments, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp, Goldman Sachs, Citizens Bank, Lazard, Audax Group. He informed the delegation about the key initiatives taken by the government to stabilize the economy and attract foreign investment to Pakistan, including broadening the tax base, enhancing the ease of doing business, and ongoing reforms in the state-owned enterprises. These steps have resulted in improved economic indicators and upgradation of Pakistan's credit rating by international rating agencies, including Fitch and Moody's. He also briefed the delegation on the establishment of a Sustainable Finance Framework, which will allow the Government to carry out a green/sustainability bond issuance in the international capital markets. Thanking the prime minister for the opportunity to interact with him, the delegation lauded the government's policies that have been instrumental in achieving the macroeconomic stability in Pakistan. The delegation also expressed a deep interest in cooperating with the government for the development of manufacturing sector, especially SMEs to help bolster the exports. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized his government's commitment to strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States during a meeting with a delegation from the US-Pakistan Business Council in New York on Friday.

US returns to Iran latest batch of ancient clay tablets

TEHRAN: The United States has returned to Iran more than 1,000 clay tablets dating from the Achaemenid era, official media said, reporting the sixth such handover of its kind. Iran's official IRNA news agency said Thursday evening that the tablets, 1,100 in all, were returned with President Masoud Pezeshkian who had attended the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Found at the ruins of Persepolis, the capital of Persian Achaemenid Empire which ruled from the 6th to 4th centuries BC in southern Iran, the repatriated tablets reflect how the ancient society was organized and its economy managed. The tablets constitute records of "the rituals and the way of life of our ancestors," said Ali Daraei, vice-minister of cultural heritage, cited by IRNA. The tablets were returned to Iran by the University of Chicago's Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia & North Africa, formerly known as the Oriental Institute. —APP

Lebanese FM calls for urgent international help amid Israeli attacks

NEW YORK: Lebanon's foreign minister on Thursday stressed the urgent need for international intervention to address the crisis in his country, which has seen Israeli attacks kill 700 citizens since Monday. "Lebanon is currently enduring a crisis which is threatening its very existence," Abdallah Bou Habib told the UN General Assembly. The crisis "will transform into a black hole that will engulf regional (and) international peace and security" if the world continues to remain "immobile," he said. Bou Habib welcomed the joint declaration by the US and France on Wednesday for a 21-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, and demanded that all possible measures be adopted for it to be implemented. He said what Lebanon is experiencing is "a consequence of the absence of a lasting (and) sustainable solution," and "not the cause of an absence of a sustainable solution. The cause is the occupation." Despite the UN's inability to protect Lebanon from Israeli aggression, Bou Habib said his country remains committed to the organization's role as a "frontline of defense." Lebanon has repeatedly made efforts for peace, he added, citing the 2022 maritime demarcation deal and the country's proposed framework for peace along its border with Israel. However, "Israel has continuously eluded the issue or disregarded the matter," which is why "we're seeking refuge in the decisions under international law," he said, reiterating Lebanon's call for a "ceasefire on all fronts." Bou Habib also asked for international support in "reinforcing the deployment of the Lebanese army south of the Litani River," and delivering equipment needed to increase troop numbers in the area. He emphasized Lebanon's commitment to peace and security, saying despite its economic crisis, the government has decided to send 100,000 additional soldiers to the south of the country. He expressed gratitude for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, which has "significantly contributed to stability and peace in the region" since its inception. "Has Israel not had enough of the endless war since 1948? When will it be time for Israel to give a real opportunity for peace?" Bou Habib asked. —DNA

Denmark joins growing list of countries supporting Morocco's autonomy plan

NEW YORK: In a joint communiqué adopted at the end of a meeting, held on September 25th 2024, in New York, between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita, and his Danish counterpart, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Denmark underlines that it "considers the Autonomy Plan presented by Morocco to the UN Security Council, in 2007, to solve the regional dispute of the Sahara as a serious and credible contribution to the ongoing UN process and as a good basis for a solution agreed between the parties". The two ministers reaffirmed their support for the UN-led process and the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for the Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, as well as his efforts to reach a peaceful and mutually acceptable solution to this regional dispute, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. The new position of Denmark is part of the international dynamic driven by the King Mohammed VI, in support of the Autonomy Plan and the Sovereignty of Morocco over its Southern provinces. It confirms a fundamental trend which is taking place in the European continent. Denmark's expression of support for the Autonomy Plan makes it the 18th European country to officially endorse Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed region. Morocco's sovereignty over its southern provinces has gained significant traction in recent years, with major powers such as the United States and France endorsing the country's Autonomy Plan. Denmark's recent statement adds yet another layer to this growing international consensus. Algeria, which harbors, supports, funds and delivers diplomatic passports to the Polisario separatist movement has consistently opposed Morocco's Plan submitted to the UN Security Council in 2007. The endorsement of Morocco's Autonomy Plan by the Scandinavian country marks a new diplomatic breakthrough for Morocco in an ever-shifting international landscape, showcasing a growing trend that transcends the traditionally Euro-Mediterranean sphere of influence. Over the years, Morocco's initiative has received the backing of a growing list of countries from different Regions and Continents. France historically joined this growing list last August, with President Emmanuel Macron stressing in a letter to King Mohammed VI that the present and future of the Sahara "fall within the framework of Moroccan sovereignty." In the Nordic region, Finland also recently expressed support for Morocco's Autonomy Initiative, describing the Moroccan proposal as the most viable basis to reach a lasting solution to the dispute. —DNA

Iraqi PM decries 'powerless' UN Security Council's inability to curb Israel's wars on Palestine, Lebanon

WASHINGTON: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani has blasted Israel as an "occupation entity" that routinely violates international laws as it wages "brutal" war on Gaza and Lebanon, and urged the international community to act against Tel Aviv. Speaking at the 79th UN General Assembly meeting on Thursday, Al-Sudani said conflict in the Middle East has intensified as a result of Israel's unfettered actions. Israel's war on Gaza has resulted in the killing of 41,000 people mainly women and children. And its attacks in Lebanon have killed hundreds and injured thousands, said Al-Sudani. He expressed "disappointment" in the UN and Security Council for not deterring Israel's "aggression" against the people of Palestine and Lebanon. Al-Sudani said the UN faces a critical test of its ability to ensure "international security, stability and human rights." "Today we are witnessing the UN charter and international laws being violated and the right of self-determination is ignored," he said. "The world is being pushed toward full-scale confrontation and conflict while the Security Council is powerless and without a role." He said that while there have been commendable individual efforts to resolve conflicts in the Middle East, a greater collective effort from the international community was needed. "In occupied Palestine, we are witnessing a people who are being attacked by an occupying military force displacing millions without being deterred and killing thousands of people." Al-Sudani added that Israeli officials were acting with impunity. "Public statements of mass-starving of people and even using nuclear weapons against them by senior officials of the occupation entity go on without any measures to deter them." He said the Palestinian people should be protected from the Israeli military occupation. However, Israel's actions have rendered international law merely "ink on paper." —APP



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the Prime Minister of Nepal H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli on the sidelines of 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.—DNA

NA body on Petroleum takes serious notice of substandard fuel quality

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Energy (Petroleum Division) Thursday took serious notice of the substandard fuel quality in Pakistan and directed the Ministry of Energy to investigate the causes behind it. During a meeting chaired by Syed Mustafa Mehmood, MNA, various issues related to the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division, and its attached departments were discussed. The Committee expressed concern over the absence of officers from the meeting, deciding to summon them if they continued to be absent in the future. The Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), and the Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) briefed the committee on the fuel quality standards in the country. They explained that fuel is sourced from both imports and domestic refineries, with initial verification done by the HDIP. OGRA's Enforcement Department ensures compliance through inspections, penalizing violators when necessary. —DNA

Remembrance Day of Martyrs in Azerbaijan

REMEMBRANCE Day of Martyrs in Azerbaijan Today marks four years since the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan undertook retaliatory actions in 2020 in response to another military provocation from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. These actions initiated the 44-day Patriotic War, conducted under the right to self-defense and in full accordance with international humanitarian law, aimed at putting an end to Armenia's ongoing military aggression and ensuring the safety of the civilian population. The Patriotic War ended Armenia's nearly 30-year-long military aggression against Azerbaijan's sovereign territory, restored Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of almost one million Azerbaijanis. Azerbaijan itself implemented the relevant 4 UN Security Council resolutions, adopted in 1993, demanding full, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from the territory of Azerbaijan. The victory achieved through the courage of the Victorious Army of the Republic of Azerbaijan, under the leadership

of President Ilham Aliyev, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, opened a new era in Azerbaijan's history and established international justice. And to prevent further large-scale provocations by Armenian forces in the Karabakh economic region of Azerbaijan and to restore the constitutional order, the Azerbaijani Army conducted an anti-terror operation on September 19, 2023. This operation, which lasted just 23 hours, forced the enemy to surrender and showcased the Azerbaijani Army's professionalism and heroism. This victory fully restored Azerbaijan's sovereignty, and today, the Azerbaijani flag flies proudly in all territories where Azerbaijani sovereignty is established. Ending the occupation of Azerbaijani territories



exposed the extent of Armenia's extensive illegal activities over the past three decades. There is clear evidence of the widespread mining of Azerbaijani lands, intentional destruction and misappropriation of Azerbaijan's historical, cultural, and religious heritage, plundering of natural resources, destruction of infrastructure, and other violations of international law, all of which have been properly documented and presented to the international community. To hold Armenia accountable for its violations of international obligations, as well as international humanitarian and human rights law, Azerbaijan has submitted interstate applications against Armenia to the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Since the initial days of liberation, Azerbaijan has commenced extensive restoration and reconstruction efforts, including key infrastructure projects, to facilitate the safe return of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis to their homes and to revitalize life in these areas. Today, Azerbaijan is actively pursuing measures to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. Azerbaijan is taking the lead in normalizing relations with Armenia based on strict adherence to the principles of international law, particularly sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of international borders. Armenia should finally put an end to imitation in the negotiations and take genuine, constructive steps. There is no other alternative for the peaceful development of the region. September 27 is commemorated as Remembrance Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan by the decree of the President, and on this historic day Martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan are solemnly honored and sincerely remembered.—Agencies

Gold price dips by Rs.300 Rs 276,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.276,700 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs. 277,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 256 to Rs. 237,226 from Rs. 237,482 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 217,456 from Rs. 217,693, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,050 and Rs.2,614.88 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$2 to \$2,663 from \$2,665, the Association reported.—APP

PSX sees selling pressure again, KSE-100 down nearly 0.5%

ISLAMABAD: Index-heavy banking and cement sectors saw some selling pressure on Friday as the benchmark KSE-100 Index lost over 350 points during the final trading session of the week. At close, the benchmark KSE-100 Index settled at 81,292.13, a decrease of 365.83 points or 0.45%. On Thursday, an initial buying spree also made way for selling pressure as investors took stock of Pakistan's economic condition despite the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approving Pakistan's 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of about \$7 billion. Investors are likely to consolidate gains before assuming fresh positions as the market incorporates latest inflation readings and projections of a rate cut in upcoming monetary policy announcements. Globally, Europe's STOXX 600 rose 0.2% to a record high of 526.72 points on Friday, eclipsing late August's all-time peak. The index has risen 2.4% this week, its biggest weekly jump in six weeks, as global stocks have rallied on the prospect of earlier rate cuts from the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, as well as China's plans for large-scale stimulus to boost growth.—APP

Chinese PV expediting overseas expansion to solve Pakistan's power crisis

BEIJING: Chinese solar photovoltaics is expediting overseas expansion to solve Pakistan's power crisis, China Economic Net (CEN). "Power shortages have long plagued Pakistan. We have also suffered from frequent floods in the past two years, which has severely damaged the power system as well. Therefore, the demand for large-scale solar photovoltaics is increasingly urgent." On September 22, Pakistani trader Abbas mentioned at the Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East & West China. Pakistan is on a path of energy transformation in full swing. So far, the South Asia country has emerged as a new overseas market for Chinese photovoltaic companies. According to statistics from the China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA), Asia surpassed Europe to become the largest export destination for PV products in the first half of 2024, with Pakistan has become the second largest module export market after Europe. During the same period, China exported inverters worth a total of RMB 1.714 billion to Pakistan. In August alone, the total value of inverter exports to Pakistan reached 326 million yuan, showing a year-on-year surge of 429.04%. And shimmering blue panels now sit atop a vast array of factories, households, hospitals and mosques. Such a skyrocket naturally does not happen out of thin air. In addition to the fact that coal required for traditional thermal power generation mainly relies on imports, the circular debt of the power sector, the slow development of the transmission network, and the high rate of transmission line damage have also seriously restricted the development of Pakistan's power system.—APP

Briefs

Adil Khan Bazai denies joining PML-N

DNA
QUETTA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-supported MNA Adil Khan Bazai has denied joining the PML-N. Adil Khan Bazai stated that he was elected as an MNA with PTI's support and has submitted his affiliation certificate to the Sunni Ittehad Council. He clarified that he had not submitted any documents to join the PML-N. Adil Khan Bazai further added that false news had been circulating in the media about his joining PML-N for the past several months. He emphasised that he would remain with the PTI.

Greece investigates death of Pakistani

WEB DESK
ATHENS: Greek authorities are investigating the death of a 37-year-old Pakistani migrant while in detention at a police station in central Athens, police said on Friday. The body of Muhammad Kamran Ashiq was found early on September 21 by the duty police officer at the station. The cause of his death is still under investigation, police said. The police said in a statement that Ashiq was detained on Sept 18 for resisting arrest after an alleged harassment incident for which no lawsuit was filed. They said that Ashiq, who was injured, was later that day sentenced to several months in prison for resisting arrest and causing damage to foreign property. He was held at the police station pending his transfer to prison and was moved to another detention area, where there is no camera surveillance, after a brawl with other detainees, police said. Ashiq's family lawyer, Maria Sfetsou, provided a different arrest date. She said Ashiq, who had a residence permit and was working as a delivery driver, was first detained on Sept 13, and was being transferred to different prison stations without being able to contact relatives or her. "The time he sustained the bruises was during the period he was under arrest," Sfetsou said. A preliminary investigation was conducted by the police department where Ashiq's body was found.

Japan's ruling party picks next PM

TOKYO: Japan's scandal-hit ruling party has elected Shigeru Ishiba as its new leader, positioning the former defence chief as Japan's next leader. Ishiba, 67, said he would clean up his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), revitalise the economy and address security threats after winning Friday's party election. Since the LDP has a parliamentary majority, its party chief will become prime minister and Ishiba is expected to be appointed to the role on Tuesday. The change of guard comes at a turbulent time for the party, which has been rocked by scandals and internal conflicts that disbanded its once-powerful factions. Nine candidates contested for the party leadership after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced last month that he would not stand for re-election. Ishiba led in most opinion polls, with this being his fifth and, he said, final bid to lead the LDP, which has ruled Japan for most of the post-war era. It headed into a run-off between Ishiba and Sanae Takaichi, 63, who vied to become Japan's first female leader. "We ought to be a party that lets members discuss the truth in a free and open manner, a party that is fair and impartial on all matters and a party with humility," he told a press conference. Ishiba is in favour of allowing female emperors - a hugely controversial issue opposed by many LDP member and successive governments. His blunt candour and public criticism of Prime Minister Kishida - a rarity in Japanese politics - has ruffled fellow party members while resonating with members of the public. - Agencies

To improve coastal communities' resilience
Aga Khan Foundation, Embassy of Denmark sign agreement

Speaking at the occasion, Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark shared, "The province of Sindh has a diverse and unique climate profile, ranging from drought prone interior districts, desert landscapes, hills, to long coastal areas spreading across 330 kilometres from the borders of India to the borders of Balochistan



STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: The Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan and the Embassy of Denmark in Islamabad today signed an agreement to improve coastal communities' resilience to climate change and mitigate climate risks in Pakistan. The project "Sindh Coastal Resilience Integrated Programme (SCRIP)" focusses on tackling climate vulnerability in coastal districts where the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)'s existing presence on the ground and strong capac-

ity can be leveraged. Through a human-centred approach and partnering closely with government and local civil society actors and knowledge institutions, it will deploy cost-effective and locally relevant solutions to improve resilience to climate change and enhance fragile ecosystems that are critical to people's lives and sustainable development. The project will build on AKF's global Indian Ocean Coastal Regeneration Initiative which has been designed as a response to the converging crises of climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss that threaten the earth's capaci-

ty to recuperate and regenerate. The partnership agreement was signed by H.E. Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark, and Akhtar Iqbal, CEO, Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan (AKF/Pakistan). The signing ceremony was also attended by other senior representatives from the Danish Embassy and the Aga Khan Development Network, Pakistan. Speaking at the occasion, Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark shared, "The province of Sindh has a diverse and unique climate profile, ranging from drought prone interior districts, desert landscapes, hills,

to long coastal areas spreading across 330 kilometres from the borders of India to the borders of Balochistan. With such rich and fragile ecosystems, the impacts of climate change are as varied - from droughts and heatwaves impacting agricultural production to severe flooding leading to fragile socio-economic conditions and livelihoods. The project aims to respond to these challenges, focusing on tackling climate vulnerability in coastal districts along the Arabian Sea coast". Akhtar Iqbal, CEO AKF, Pakistan noted that AKF is pleased to collaborate with the Embassy of Denmark on a critical component as communities in Pakistan have been experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in Pakistan. Aga Khan Foundation and agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network have been fully committed to doing our part for responsible stewardship of the environment. The Sindh Coastal Resilience Integrated Programme encompasses a science-based ecosystem approach and builds on the premise that in order to address climate change and ensure environmental sustainability, it is essential to engage communities and by doing so, improving the overall quality of life and economic opportunities." The project will be implemented by the AKDN agencies including the the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan (AKAHP) and the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP).

Government 'postpones' PIA privatisation bidding

FAISAL SHEIKH
ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to delay the financial bidding for the privatisation of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) until October 31, citing sources reported a Pakistani newspaper. According to the sources, low bidder interest and unresolved issues have been cited as reasons behind the delay. Previously, the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Privatisation had disclosed that the privatisation process was extended to October 1. But the process has been delayed once again - this time, by a month. The sources added that the delay may have resulted from issues including unresolved court cases, fleet ageing and civil aviation issues. This change in plans comes after Usman Bajwa, secretary of the Privatisation Commission, earlier this week, informed the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Privatisation that the final bid documents were shared with six pre-qualified bidders. The six consortia that were pre-qualified to bid for a 60% stake in PIA, include: • Fly Jinnah Limited • Air Blue Limited • Arif Habib Corporation Limited.

Gandapur's brother files defamation suit against Kundi

PESHAWAR: Faisal Amin, the brother of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur has filed a defamation suit against Governor Faisal Karim Kundi for leveling corruption allegations. Gandapur's brother filed a defamation case against Faisal Karim Kundi in the district court as the governor failed to reply to the legal notice urging him to seek an apology and pay Rs500 mln. He stated that Governor Kundi's allegations of corruption against him and the CM on a TV show had damaged his reputation and attempted to harm his political career. Earlier, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur sent a defamation notice to Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. - DNA

Russia rattles the nuclear sabre again

Ukraine may have destroyed three months' worth of Russian ammunition in one night using its drones, and pledges to build 'several million' more.

FOREIGN DESK
MOSCOW: Russia has tailored its nuclear response doctrine to the specific threat of the long-range attacks it faces from Ukraine, even as Kyiv's forces demonstrated during the past week devastating effect such attacks can have on Moscow's conventional war effort. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently "outlined the approaches" to a new edition of the Fundamentals of State Policy on nuclear weapons use, wrote his right-hand man, deputy head of the National Security Council Dmitry Medvedev, on Telegram on Wednesday. "A massive launch and crossing of our border with enemy aerospace weapons, including aircraft, missiles and UAVs, can under certain conditions become the basis for the use of nuclear weapons," he wrote. "Aggression against Russia by a non-nuclear-weapon state, but with the support or participation of a nuclear-weapon country, will be considered a joint attack," Medvedev added. These threat profiles are exactly tailored to describe Ukraine, which gave up nuclear weapons in 1994, but is supported by nuclear-armed states the United Kingdom, France and the United States, and which has been forbidden to use Western-supplied weapons to attack deep inside Russia. The latest move seems designed to refresh the threat of a first strike. Russian officials recently told The Washington Post that the oft-repeated threats had grown trite with overuse and "don't frighten anyone" in the West. Ukraine has used drones of its own manufacture to hit Russian logistics hubs, and on Saturday, reminded Russia of what it could achieve even without using British-supplied Storm Shadow cruise missiles and US-supplied Army Tactical Missiles (ATACMS).

Afghan embassy in UK shuts after Taliban govt cuts ties

"This decision was not made by the UK government," says spokesperson

FOREIGN DESK
LONDON: Afghanistan's embassy in London closed on Friday after Taliban authorities cut ties with diplomatic missions set up by the previous government in Kabul and fired its UK staff. A notice hung on the gate to the consular section reading: "The embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan is closed." No one answered the door but the country's flag was still flying. Afghan ambassador to the UK, Zalmay Rassoul announced on social media earlier this month that the embassy would close "at the official request of the host country" on September 27. The UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) denied that it was behind the closure. "This decision was not made by the UK government," a spokesperson said. "The State of Afghanistan decided to close the Afghan Embassy in London and dismiss its staff. "We continue to support the people of Afghanistan and provide humanitarian assistance to those most in need." The FCDO has not indicated whether a new Afghan ambassador would be accredited in London. The UK does not recognise the Taliban government as legitimate and does not have formal diplomatic relations with the country. But in line with the United States and the European Union, London acknowledges that there is "no alternative to engaging pragmatically with the current administration of Afghanistan". The UK mission to Afghanistan is currently based in Doha. The Afghan embassy's consular section in London closed on September 20, according to its website. On Friday, Rassoul reposted an X post in which the German ambassador to the UK said it was a "pleasure" to work with his Afghan counterpart over the years and condemned the "appalling situation for women and girls under the Taliban".

KP government welcomes IMF package approval

KP adviser for finance says cabinet has directed to seek clarification from the federal govt on those points

SHAMIM SHAHID
PESHAWAR: Welcoming the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package's approval, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Adviser for Finance Muzammil Aslam said the provincial cabinet has expressed reservations on some points of the deal with the international lender. Talking to a private news channel on Friday, he said the cabinet had directed to seek clarification from the federal government on those points. The sought-after explanation by the Centre on the points would be submitted to KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, he added. The development came after the Executive Board of the Washington-based lender on September 25 approved a \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the first tranche of \$1.1 billion likely to be released by September 30. The latest bailout, coming to Pakistan in the form of loans, follows a commitment by the government to implement reforms, including a major effort to broaden the country's tax base - a measure reflected in the tax-heavy budget passed earlier this year by the incumbent administration.

Azerbaijan seeks legal collaboration with Pakistan



Law minister holds meeting with Azerbaijan envoy

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar had a meeting with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khazar Farhadov. During the meeting, the Ambassador congratulated Pakistan on the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the two nations, expressing optimism about its practical implementation and exploring areas of mutual interest. He also emphasized Azerbaijan's interest in expanding collaboration, particularly in the legal domain. Federal Minister highlighted the close ties between the two countries and proposed extending an invitation to the Azer-

bajani Minister of Justice for an official visit to Pakistan. He further reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering stronger cooperation in legal assistance and welcomed discussions on legislative developments in Pakistan that provide new incentives for foreign investment. Ambassador also requested support for Azerbaijani businesses operating in Pakistan, with a focus on feasibility studies and navigating the regulatory environment. Both sides discussed collaboration in legal education, training, and capacity building for key stakeholders within their respective justice systems. To facilitate this cooperation, it was agreed to establish a small working group to finalize modalities and open a communication channel between the two countries. The meeting concluded with both parties expressing their appreciation and reaffirming their commitment to enhancing cooperation and working together to further mutual interests.

WORLD NEWS DAY
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