



# Islamabad POST

Monday, September 30, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**China's FM urges global opposition to hegemony**

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**Fazl reiterates demand to hold fresh elections**

Detailed News On Page-08



**M. Yousuf steps down as team selector**

Detailed News On Page-06



## FBR likely to extend tax return deadline

This comes after COAS meets business community in Karachi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is likely to extend the deadline for the submission of tax returns following the meeting of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir with the business community in Karachi. Sources within the FBR say that the deadline for filing income tax returns for the year 2023-24 is likely to be extended by 15 days for individuals, associations of persons, businessmen and companies.

## Nepal floods kill 148

More than 50 people are still missing on Sunday

KATMANDU: Major floods and landslides in Nepal have killed at least 148 people and injured more than 100 across the Himalayan nation, police have reported. They say more than 50 people are still missing on Sunday after two days of intense rainfall, which has inundated the valley around the capital Kathmandu. About 3,600 people have been rescued. Residents say they "jumped from one roof to another" to escape rising waters, which have flooded thousands of homes. Meanwhile, crews are still carrying out rescues on helicopters and inflatable rafts. Despite rain being forecast to continue through to Tuesday, there are signs of some easing on Sunday. Some residents were able to return to their mud-caked homes on Sunday, while others are still cut off with major roads between towns and villages still blocked. But flash floods, along with landslides, have caused many deaths. At least 35 bodies have been recovered from vehicles buried under landslide in Prithvi Highway, near Kathmandu, police officials say. - Agencies

## Police thrash men, women protesting against Israel

People raised slogans against Israel and its long-time ally, the United States

DNA

KARACHI: Police fired tear gas and protesters pelted stones in Karachi on Sunday evening during a rally that was part of nationwide protests condemning Israel's killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and its ongoing bombing campaign in Lebanon. In Karachi, a large number of protesters, including women and children, attended the rally, raising slogans against Israel and its long-time ally, the United States. Karachi Police said in a statement that the religious-political party, Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen (MWM), organised the rally in the metropolis. "[The rally] was going to start at PIDC intersection, before moving towards Mai Kohachi Road via the ICI Bridge before culminating at the US Consulate," the statement said. According to the police, several protesters began their rally from the Old Numaish roundabout and marched along the main MA Jinnah Road.

## Tax filers doubled Current IMF programme to be final for Pak

Govt to abolish 150,000 vacant posts, dissolve CADD ministry: finance minister

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb has said the government has decided to abolish 150,000 vacant posts as well as dissolve one ministry and merge two others. Addressing the media in Islamabad on Sunday, he said after the federal cabinet's approval, the right-sizing committee had decided to scrap 60% of the vacant seats, which would help reduce the expenditures. Putting the rumours to rest on the name of the ministry, the finance czar said the Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) ministry would be dissolved. A government spokesperson on September 1 told Geo News that scores of high-ranking officials would be put on the chopping block. "The rightsizing committee has reviewed six ministries so far, in the first phase. Dissolution of one ministry has been approved, while two others will be merged," he said. Whereas, the cabinet committee on institutional reforms on August 16 recommended curtailing 150,000 vacant positions, banning non-core services like cleaning, janitorial work, which would gradually phase out many positions in grades 1 to 16. In a meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, to reduce public sector size and expenses, a committee headed by the finance minister, had presented its recommendations for

Continued on Page 06

## Cross-border terrorism accusation UNGA: Pakistan hits back at India

"It is most ironic that India, which is committing the worst form of state terrorism in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir while also actively engaging in sponsoring terrorism abroad, is portraying itself as the victim

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: A Pakistani diplomat hit back at the Indian External Affairs Minister's speech in the UN General Assembly that depicted Pakistan as a promoter of terrorism, saying it was well documented that India was not only committing state terrorism in occupied Kashmir but also abroad. "It is most ironic that India, which is committing the worst form of state terrorism in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir while also actively engaging in sponsoring terrorism abroad, is portraying itself as the victim," Pakistani diplomat Muhammad Faheem told the 193-member Assembly. Earlier in the day, S. Jaishankar,

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan-Oman agree to ink MoU to exchange workforce

Chaudhry Salik is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman on Sunday agreed to sign memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor and manpower exchange which would facilitate the enhancement of Pakistan workforce and its smooth movement from Pakistan to Oman. This was decided in a meeting held in Muscat between Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Minister of Labour of the Sultanate of Oman Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, said a press release issued here.

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan slams Israel's growing adventurism in ME

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East and said that its unbridled attacks on civilian populations and disregard of international law have reached alarming levels. "For the last several days, Israeli forces have engaged in unacceptable

Continued on Page 06

## Lebanon crisis Pak intensifies efforts to assist nationals

Pakistani citizens in Lebanon and their families are urged to reach out to the CMU for assistance

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Pakistani Embassy in Beirut, is actively working to assist Pakistani nationals caught in the ongoing crisis in Lebanon. In light of the situation, the ministry has launched its Crisis Management Unit (CMU) to provide support and guidance. Pakistani citizens in Lebanon and their families are urged to reach out to the CMU for assistance. The following contact details have been provided for immediate communication: Crisis Management Unit (CMU):

Landline: 051-9207887 Email: cmu1@mofa.gov.pk Additionally, the Embassy of Pakistan in Beirut has set up a 24/7 helpline to support Pakistani nationals. The embassy remains operational around the clock to respond to any emergency needs of the community during this difficult time.

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## MQM-P rejects extension in quota system

An extension of 20 years in the quota system is sheer injustice: MQM-P

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has rejected an extension in the quota system. One of the most important government allies said that an extension of 20 years in the quota system is sheer injustice. According to sources, the MNAs of MQM gave a suggestion to reconsider its decision of supporting the ruling coalition in the centre against the quota system. "The quota system is economic and educational murder of the people hailing from Urban Sindh," said the MQM lawmakers. The sources added that MQM-P is planning to convene its meeting to discuss the extension in quota system.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing the media. Chairman FBR and Director General Media Ministry of Finance Hamid Raza Wattoo also seen in the picture. - DNA

## After PTI-police clashes Will respond to every bullet, baton: KP CM Gandapur

PTI leader claims bullets fired on three of their workers and whereabouts of one of them could not be traced

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Commenting on the recent clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and the police in Rawalpindi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stated that his party would respond to every bullet, tear gas shell, and baton strike against its supporters. In a statement on Sunday, the firebrand PTI leader claimed bullets were fired on three of their workers and whereabouts of one of them could not be traced. "More than 50 PTI workers have been injured in shelling as shells and bullets were fired every three kilometres on us," he said. The KP Chief Minister Gandapur said this after returning to Peshawar as the PTI protest in Rawalpindi was "called off" amid violent clashes between protesters and riot

Continued on Page 06

## Punjab govt seeks 3-month extension in Section 144

Currently, law allows govt to impose Section 144 for a maximum of two days, extendable to seven days

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government presented an amendment bill in the provincial assembly which would allow the imposition of Section 144 for a minimum of three months. Punjab Minister for Finance Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman

Continued on Page 06

## Israel pounds Lebanon after killing Nasrallah

Israel also attacks various installations in Yemen; Iran warns Tel Aviv of consequences

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: Israel said it struck "dozens" more Hezbollah targets in Lebanon on Sunday, after dealing the Iran-backed group a seismic blow by killing its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Nasrallah's killing and the past week's waves of strikes on Hezbollah strongholds around Lebanon have plunged the tiny Mediterranean country and the wider region into fear of even more violence to come. Hezbollah launched

low-intensity cross-border strikes on Israeli troops after its Palestinian ally Hamas staged its unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7, sparking the war in the Gaza Strip. Nearly a year later, Israel announced a shift in its focus to battling Hezbollah on its northern front with Lebanon. Hezbollah confirmed Nasrallah's killing on Friday in a massive strike on the group's main bastion in the south Lebanon's capital, Beirut. The Lebanese health ministry said the

Continued on Page 06

# The Judicial deadlock and the way forward

Opinion

ANSAR M BHATTI



INTERESTINGLY, there has never been a dull moment in Pakistan. Since its inception, the country has faced continual turmoil, which perhaps explains why we lag behind nations that gained independence after Pakistan. From the very beginning, the country's elite embarked on a mission to dominate all spheres. Politicians sought to maintain control over the political domain at any cost, the business elite took over key enterprises, and, above all, the Establishment endeavored to assert control over everything. As a result, the country's affairs have deteriorated, and a true democratic order, along with the rule of law, has struggled to take root in this so-called "land of the pure." The judiciary also sought to expand its influence and authority when the opportunity to seize power arose. Historically, the judiciary has often acted as a facilitator in reinforcing the control of the Establishment, particularly in domestic affairs. Whether it was the hanging of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the overthrow of Nawaz Sharif's government, or more recently the dislodging of Imran Khan's government, the judiciary has frequently played a pivotal role—most often aligning with the powers that be. Recently, we have observed a growing sense of 'defiance' within the superior judiciary. This began when six judges of

"The Chinese ambassador, in his recent meeting with Nawaz Sharif, highlighted Pakistan's ongoing political turmoil, signaling concern from nations with significant interests in the country. Political stability is essential for achieving economic stability, and any constitutional amendments at this critical juncture would only exacerbate existing challenges, deepening the political divide"

the Islamabad High Court wrote to the Supreme Judicial Council, highlighting interference from the Establishment in judicial matters. Initially, the letter stirred some controversy, but over time, the issue appears to have been quietly set aside. The ongoing tug-of-war among Supreme Court judges has taken center stage, with analysts suggesting that the incumbent Chief Justice is playing the role of a 'facilitator' in the conflict between the judges, the Election Commission, and the government. A recent verdict by eight judges, led by Senior Judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, directed the Election Commission to allocate reserved seats to the PTI. In response, the Election Commission and the government have been using delaying tactics, aware that implementing the judgment would position the PTI as the largest party in the National Assembly. This shift would also prevent the ruling coalition from securing the two-thirds majority needed for constitutional amendments. From the public's perspective, this ongoing maneuvering has made the situation intriguing. However, these developments do not bode well for the future of the rule of law or for maintaining a cooperative relationship among state institutions. The government attempted to secure a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution but failed to persuade JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, temporarily halting its plans. Despite this setback, the government remains determined to establish the Constitutional Court as the highest court in

Pakistan. However, legal experts and lawyers argue that having two courts with equal authority could lead to confusion and conflict. Many political parties, including those in the ruling coalition, have voiced concerns about these proposed changes. Nevertheless, they feel pressured to comply, as opposing the plan may cost them their positions. No one can claim with certainty that the new Constitutional Court will be free from error, nor that the judges appointed by the government will be infallible or immune to influence, coercion, manipulation, or pressure. To genuinely reform the judicial system, political parties must start from the grassroots. The lower judiciary, in particular, requires urgent and comprehensive reform. Currently, those seeking justice are forced to navigate a maze of bureaucratic hurdles, often having to resort to bribery to influence those in power. This deeply entrenched corruption allows even individuals guilty of heinous crimes to exploit loopholes and escape accountability. Without addressing these systemic flaws in the lower judiciary, true justice remains inaccessible to many, and any reforms at higher levels will only offer superficial improvements. Hence the idea of the Constitutional Court appears to be an attempt to further strengthen foothold the powers-that-be, particularly on the judiciary because the Judiciary turns out to be a force that can pose a challenge at any time. Therefore the establishment of the Constitutional Court composed

of judges of government choice becomes vital for such powers. If the government genuinely intends to reform the superior judiciary to reduce case backlogs, establishing this court could occur at any time. Why, then, is it deemed necessary to launch it in October? This timing raises significant concerns. The government's apparent motivation for an October launch likely stems from two key factors. First, it aims to finalize the court before the SCO summit in the second week of October. Second, reports suggest a desire to appoint CJP Qazi Faez Isa as the first Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, coinciding with his retirement that same month. However, this second option may have backfired; Justice Faez Isa has become a controversial figure. Appointing someone with existing controversies could taint the new court's reputation before it even begins, jeopardizing the entire initiative. And that may not be a significant issue for the real forces behind this idea, as finding like-minded judges is hardly a challenge. In conclusion, the political and economic landscape is likely to face further turbulence in the coming days and months. The Chinese ambassador, in his recent meeting with Nawaz Sharif, highlighted Pakistan's ongoing political turmoil, signaling concern from nations with significant interests in the country. Political stability is essential for achieving economic stability, and any constitutional amendments at this critical juncture would only exacerbate existing challenges, deepening the political divide.



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

Sept01/Libya Revolution Day

Sept01/Tanzania Defence day

Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day

Sept07/Brazil Independence Day

Sept09/DPR Korea National Day

Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day

Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day

Sept16/Mexico National Day

Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day

Sept18/Chile National Day

Sept21/Malta Independence Day

Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115  
PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Govt determined to make Pak top destination for business

The Minister said that prudent and effective policies of the Government have brought down inflation. Stable and increased foreign reserves have brought down interest rate. Moreover the, Government has been working relentlessly on bringing down power tariffs for the industry in general and exporters in particular

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government is working on increasing Ease of Doing Business in Pakistan to make it an attractive destination for foreign investment. In this regard, projects like Pakistan Single Window have been undertaken to provide one node solution to potential investors rather than hopping between various government departments for different permits. The government remains fully committed to supporting businesses and fostering an environment that enables them to thrive. This has been stated by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan while addressing 40 years anniversary celebration of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry ( ICCI ) as Chief guest. The Minister said that prudent and effective policies of the Government have brought down inflation. Stable and increased foreign reserves have brought down interest rate. Moreover the,

Government has been working relentlessly on bringing down power tariffs for the industry in general and exporters in particular. He added that the Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif himself is paying utmost attention on the resolution of the business community's problems and that a high profile Board is already working under his ( Prime Minister ) chair for the purpose. He further said that an all-out effort is being made by every Ministry to see regional trade flourish and explore business opportunities for our exporters. The transshipment policy is being revised to spur cross border trade in the region and foster business opportunities for our business community. Once devised, the transshipment policy is expected to make Pakistan a regional business hub for the Central Asia, South Asia and Middle East regions. This will create employment for skilled labour force, bring in foreign exchange, boost revenues for the Government and bring in overall development in

the country. The role of Chambers in promoting trade and commerce, both domestic and international, cannot be overstated. Over the past four decades, the Islamabad Chamber has played a pivotal role in spurring business activity, promoting entrepreneurship, and contributing significantly to national economic progress, he further stated. In his welcome address Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighted the major milestones of ICCI achieved during his tenure. He said that he and his entire team tirelessly worked to resolve the problems being faced by the community and to provide it a congenial atmosphere for ease of doing businesses. He said that we have to increase our exports, impart skill training to our youth and formulate long term economic policies for the wellbeing of the country. He described his success as President ICCI the result of the entire team work

and expressed the hope that the future leadership of the Chamber will carry forward this legacy. Chairman Founder Group ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik paid rich tributes to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his outstanding performance as President ICCI which made the Chamber as one of the premier Chambers of the country. In his address former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari underlined the need for the acknowledgement of business leaders' achievements through excellence awards at government level. He called upon the youth to idealize business leaders to emerge as job providers instead of job seekers. Former President FPCCI and ICCI Zubair Ahmad Malik by mentioning the problems of the business fraternity impressed upon the government for provision of necessary facilities to business community. He also demanded initiation of immediate work on Pakistan-Iran

gas pipeline project, CASA-1000, TAPI etc. in the best interest of the country. President elect ICCI Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that Pakistan is blessed with multiple opportunities and resources and the only needed thing is to showcase them articulately to overcome the economic challenges. He also made the mention of his future plans to further promote the Chamber's reputation and especially to resolve community's problems. Senior Vice President Faad Waheed emphasized the need for the continuity of the economic policies. In his vote of thanks, Vice President Eng. Azharul Islam Zafar expressed gratitude to the chief guest for gracing the occasion. Former Presidents of the Chambers were bestowed with awards at the hands of the Chief Guest acknowledging their remarkable achievements and dedication to the business community. The celebration was attended by the business leaders, government functionaries and media persons.

## ETO commits to expand user-friendly services

ISLAMABAD: Director Excise & Taxation Department, Islamabad, Bilal Azam on Sunday assured his department's commitment to providing more transparent and user-friendly services for residents, particularly in vehicle registration and token tax payment. In an exclusive interview with APP, he highlighted the importance of leveraging digital solutions to enhance accessibility for residents while actively working to eliminate the role of agents who contribute to corrupt practices. Admitting the agent mafia's existence despite a number of modern solutions, especially mobile facilities, he underscored citizens' role to utilize the department's digital online services, which are designed to simplify processes and reduce the reliance on intermediaries. By fostering awareness and engagement, Azam believes the community can play a vital role in transforming service delivery and promoting transparency. Responding to a number of queries and public concerns raised by this agency's scribe, Azam outlined a two-step process for vehicle registration and transfer. Applicants can simply call the department's helpline at 111-383-383 to provide their details and schedule a visit from a mobile registration van, which may arrive on the same day or the next. This initiative not only caters to individual needs but also represents a move towards personalized public service. Additionally, mobile vans are stationed at five locations throughout the week, expanding access for those who prefer to handle their affairs in person.—APP



ISLAMABAD Ladies taking a selfie on the occasion of the Independence Day of Indonesia.—DNA

# IST to celebrate World Space Week 2024

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Space Technology (IST), in collaboration with the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCG-SA), is all set to celebrate World Space Week (WSW) 2024 through a series of activities in the month of October. According to the IST, this annual event is celebrated globally from October 4-10 and endorsed by the United Nations and underscores the critical role of space science and technology in shaping the future of humanity. This year's theme, "Space and Climate Change," aims to raise awareness of the contributions of space technology in environmental monitoring and climate solutions. Main-

taining its past trend of celebrating World Space Week, IST has planned to mark this important occasion through a number of activities from October 8-10. Designed for students from Grades 6 to 12, the event will feature 10 categories and 70 educational modules, offering a range of activities including space recitations, trivia, creative writing, technology demonstrations, models and collectibles, art and design, performing arts, life and sustainability, and space for climate change. The deadline for registration to participate in these activities is September 30, with a fee of PKR 10,000 per institute. The participants can register at the following link: [ncgsa.org.pk/wsw-2024](https://ncgsa.org.pk/wsw-2024). IST and NCG-SA continue to empower the

next generation of scientists, innovators, and climate leaders by providing an exciting platform for students to explore the intersection of space technology and climate action. For the past 19 years, the Institute of Space Technology (IST) has proudly led the celebration of World Space Week (WSW) from October 4-10, a global event endorsed by the United Nations to honor the remarkable achievements in space science and technology and their profound contributions to humanity. Since 2005, IST has served as a dynamic platform for students to engage in immersive STEM and STEAM-based activities, competitions, and hands-on projects, igniting curiosity and passion for space exploration. This enduring tradition has not only inspired young minds

but also fostered a deep appreciation for the critical role that space technology plays in advancing scientific progress and addressing global challenges. Through World Space Week, IST has championed space education on a national scale, empowering students to innovate, think creatively, and pursue careers in space science in alignment with the global vision set by the United Nations. By nurturing the next generation of space enthusiasts, IST continues to pave the way for future leaders and innovators in the space sector, ensuring a brighter, more technologically advanced future for all. World Space Week is the annual week of celebrating achievements and contributions of Space Science, technology, and its applications.

## Training course on 'Leveraging AI

ISLAMABAD: The Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET) in collaboration with Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT) is organizing a distance-training course on "Leveraging AI for Precision Agriculture" from October 28-30. According to an official of ISNET, the course will offer a comprehensive examination of the synergy between Artificial Intelligence, aerial mapping, and agricultural methodologies. Through a blend of theoretical fundamentals and practical applications, participants will delve into the challenges, opportunities, and future directions for agricultural advancement. The topics to be covered during the course include techniques for aerial data acquisition followed by the implementation of AI algorithms for crop's health monitoring, yield estimation, and stress analysis. Through case studies and real-world examples, participants will gain insights into optimizing agricultural systems for enhanced efficiency and sustainability. The intending participants can register through <https://forms.gle/eWuP8KQicgMi4g3u9> till the deadline October 21. The further details of the course are available through [www.isnet.org.pk](http://www.isnet.org.pk). ISNET and INIT, two key organizations working under the ambit of COMSTech, have a long history of promoting science, technology, and information dissemination across OIC member states. ISNET has been instrumental in advancing space sciences and technologies, while INIT has focused on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), both working to foster cooperation and development within the Muslim world.—APP

## Over 25 students injured in clash at QAU

ISLAMABAD: More than 25 students were injured in a violent clash between two student groups at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad last night and university administration has lodged a complaint against members of both groups involved in the incident, sparking concerns over campus safety. A violent confrontation took place between the Punjabi Students group and Pakhtun Students group at Quaid-e-Azam University late on the night of September 28, 2024. The clash, which erupted near the university hostels, saw dozens of students from both sides engaging in a physical fight, a police officer said while talking to APP on Sunday. According to a report filed by the English campus manager of Quaid-e-Azam University, Lieutenant Colonel Nadeem Abbas, the incident began when a guard from hostel number 5 informed him of an altercation in the square above Karachi Heights. Upon investigating, it was found that some Punjabi students had assaulted Muzammil Marwat, a member of the Pakhtun Students group, who suffered serious head injuries during the attack. Following the initial confrontation, tensions escalated as students from both groups began to gather in large numbers. Around 70 to 80 students from the Punjabi Students group, led by Punjab Council Chairman Rana Hassan, assembled near hostel number seven. They were reportedly armed with sticks and iron rods. Meanwhile, around 300 students from the Pakhtun Students group gathered at the New Cafeteria under the leadership of Pakhtunkhwa Community Students Chairman Asad Turi.—DNA

## Search operation in limits of PS Secretariat

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation on Sunday in the jurisdiction of Secretariat police station. According to police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city. Following these directions Superintendent of Police (SP) City zone Khalid Mehmood Awan, a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Secretariat police station by ICT Police teams including Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and lady police teams, he said. He said during the search operation, 53 suspicious individuals, 15 houses and 06 hotels were checked. Five suspicious individuals and seven unregistered vehicles were taken to the police station for legal proceedings, he added. DIG Syed Ali Raza said that the search and combing operations were conducted to heighten security in the federal capital, he said. All zonal officers were directed to continue these operations in their respective areas as well, he added. Citizens are also requested to cooperate with the police during the checking and report any suspicious activity.—APP

## CDA's garbage trucks turn Expressway commute into a nightmare

ISLAMABAD: Every day, Islamabad Expressway, the city's major artery, becomes a landfill as overloaded and improperly covered waste management trucks from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) spill litter onto it. This transforms daily commutes into a nightmare, particularly for bikers. With approximately 1,200 tonnes of garbage generated daily by the capital, this careless and unhygienic disposal highlights the CDA's negligence in waste management. The situation has prompted urgent pleas for action from frustrated travelers, forced to navigate an unsanitary and stinky environment that threatens both their comfort and health. The annoyed commuters have expressed their outrage on

this situation when talking to APP. Ahmed Khan, a bank official who travels from Model Town Humak to Melody Islamabad, shared, "I can't believe this is what our city has come to. Every day, it's like driving through a pungent trash dump." Another commuter, Bilal Ahmed, a government employee who rides his bike from Jinnah Garden to the Secretariat, recounted a particularly terrible experience. "On a rainy day, I got splattered with garbage on my way home. And it was a nightmare. I had to take a bath and change clothes as soon as I got home, and I lost my appetite for days because of it." "Despite numerous complaints, there seems to be little response from the civic body. Their failure to

enforce proper waste management protocols raises questions about their commitment to public health and safety. Commuters continue to experience unpleasant odors and hazardous conditions. "It's unacceptable," said Zahid Shah, who commutes daily from Sihala to F-7 and vice versa. The CDA currently collects garbage from the city and temporarily dumps it at I-11 before transporting it to Losar. They are also working on establishing a proper transfer station at I-9, expected to be completed in six months. The CDA has frequently proposed setting up a "scientific landfill" site, only to change plans later. They are now looking to acquire land in Losar after negotiations with the Rawalpindi administration.—APP

## SEPTEMBER 2024

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## Briefs

IRSA  
releases  
188,200  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 188,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 172,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.39 feet and was 139.39 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 102,700 cusecs and 85,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1216.85 feet, which was 168.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,600 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 93,000, 85,000, 82,400 and 32,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 23,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

AIOU to  
host Open  
Universities  
conference

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Preparations are underway for the 37th annual international conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Besides Asian Open Universities, Associate Members of Asian Association of Open Universities from Europe, USA, Australia, Africa will also participate in the conference. The three-day conference, scheduled from October 15 to 17, aims to highlight the importance and objectives of distance education and align it with contemporary requirements. According to Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIOU, the conference will provide a platform for regional and international universities to share experiences and collaborate in education and research. Renowned education experts will present over 250 papers, with 300 abstracts already received. —APP

Naqvi extends  
greetings  
to Chinese  
Consul  
General

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren to extend congratulations on China's National Day. During the meeting, Naqvi praised China's progress under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, stating that China has achieved new milestones in development. He further emphasized the enduring relationship between the two nations, calling China Pakistan's "most trusted and sincere friend." Naqvi highlighted China's rapid development as a model for the world, stressing that China has played a historic role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy. Naqvi added, "Pakistan is proud of its everlasting friendship with China, which has reached new heights through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)." —APP

Serena Hotels celebrated World Tourism Day 2024  
Indigenous culture, sustainable  
economic empowerment discussed

The panel discussion concluded with several key takeaways, including the need to preserve indigenous culture as a core component of tourism and strategies to empower local communities through tourism-related opportunities. Recommendations were made for stronger collaborations between government, the private sector, and local communities to support sustainable tourism practices in Gilgit-Baltistan

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels celebrated World Tourism Day 2024 with a significant panel discussion titled "Community-Centric Tourism: Promoting Indigenous Culture for Sustainable Economic Empowerment" at Hunza Serena Hotel. The event brought together experts, government officials, and industry leaders to explore how community-centric tourism can preserve cultural heritage and foster sustainable economic empowerment in Gilgit-Baltistan. The discussion highlighted the potential of local traditions and crafts as drivers of tourism, helping to preserve indigenous culture while creating economic opportunities for local communities. Lal Bano, one of the panelists and Manager of Karigarh, highlighted how community-focused initiatives empower local artisans, especially women, by providing platforms to showcase their crafts and preserving traditional skills. Her insights emphasized the vital role these programs play in fostering economic independence and cultural preservation. Zameer Abbas, Secretary of Tourism, Sports & Culture, Gilgit-Baltistan, emphasized the government's role in supporting sustainable tourism, outlining initiatives that encourage cultural preservation while boosting tour-



ism opportunities. He stressed the importance of public-private partnerships to ensure long-term benefits for local communities. The event also focused on the challenges of promoting sustainable tourism in mountain regions, with Raja Ali Anwar Khan, General Secretary of the Gilgit Baltistan Association of Tour Operators, offering insights into responsible tourism practices that protect the environment and benefit local populations economically.

Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University, added academic perspectives, emphasizing the role of education in promoting sustainable tourism models that balance environmental, cultural, and economic goals. His input underscored the need for a well-rounded approach to tourism development in the region. The panel discussion concluded with several key takeaways, including the need to preserve indigenous culture as a core component of tourism and strategies to empower local communities through tourism-related opportunities. Recommendations were made for stronger collaborations between government, the private sector, and local communities to support sustainable tourism practices in Gilgit-Baltistan. Serena Hotels reaffirmed its commitment to responsible tourism and community empowerment by highlighting the company's ongoing efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of the regions in which they

operate while ensuring tourism serves as a tool for sustainable economic growth. This event was part of Serena Hotels' Raabta Initiative, a platform designed to foster meaningful dialogues on topics crucial to communities and society at large. Through Raabta, Serena Hotels aims to create spaces for impactful conversations that drive positive change, addressing the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by the regions in which they operate.

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"India was behind the ethnic  
cleansing of Biharis in 1971

Dr Junaid Ahmad, shared in his remarks that the government of Hasina Wajid had established a commission of international experts in an attempt to discredit the book and had planned to organize a seminar at the UN Human Rights Commission Geneva to spread propaganda about alleged killing of Bengalis by the Pak Army

## FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A well attended book launch of Dr Junaid Ahmad's latest work '1971 ETHNIC CLEANSING OF BIHARIS IN EAST PAKISTAN' was held at the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad. During a session chaired by Dr Syed Riffat Hussain, the book was reviewed by Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Director

General, NUST Institute of Policy Studies; Prof. Jawaid Mohsin Malik, a very senior educationist and Dr Azima Khatoon, Assistant Professor, Pakistan Studies & IR at the International Islamic University Islamabad. Dr Junaid Ahmad, shared in his remarks that the government of Hasina Wajid had established a commission of international experts in an attempt to discredit the book and had planned to organize a seminar at the UN Human

Rights Commission Geneva to spread propaganda about alleged killing of Bengalis by the Pak Army. In his keynote remarks on the occasion, President IRS Ambassador Jauhar Saleem noted that Dr Junaid's well researched work, for the first time ever, reveals the ethnic cleansing of Biharis and Non-Bengalis in East Pakistan during March 1971 to February 1972 at the hands of Awami Leaguers, Indian trained and funded Mukti Bahini terrorists and

the Indian soldiers initially as saboteurs, infiltrators and later as occupying force. An estimated 660,000 Biharis and Non-Bengalis were killed in those twelve months. The book details India's role and involvement in the breakup of Pakistan in 1971 which has been openly accepted by many Indian leaders and also acknowledged by Bangladesh officials. He also took the opportunity to call upon the youth to inculcate the habit of reading good books.

Aleem engages top  
Chinese investors to  
invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Investment and Privatization engaged here over 30 top Chinese entrepreneurs in various sectors to invest in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. Addressing the "Business Roundtable" at Pakistan's Embassy, the Minister said that he was pleased to see that a big number of Chinese companies are eager to invest in important sectors such as construction, logistics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, technology, agriculture and automobile industry. He said, "CPEC has already delivered results in transport infrastructure, connectivity, and energy generation. As we advance the next phase of high-quality development of CPEC, our joint focus is on industrialization, especially through focuses B2B cooperation, the development of SEZs, Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and the Gwadar Free Zone." Pakistan's renewable energy sector also holds great promise, with an estimated potential of generating 3,300 GW of electricity. The energy consumption is expected to increase further by 1.5 times by 2030. "Pakistan also boasts a vast agricultural potential possessing 9.1 million hectares of arable land and 22.4 million hectares of rangeland for the livestock. —DNA

Pak, China to establish special  
agricultural industrial park

ISLAMABAD: China's Anhui Annongda Agricultural Science and Technology Company will collaborate with Pakistan to establish a Special Agricultural Industrial Park. In this connection, it inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Carium Healthcare Innovation Company, marking the beginning of a collaborative venture aimed at establishing the Park. This is a move to bolster the essential oil sector in Pakistan. The partnership will focus on research and development in essential oil extraction, along with the cultivation of plants and herbs rich in essential oils and traditional medicinal properties, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The MoU underscores the shared commitment to harnessing Pakistan's natural resources and fostering innovative practices that will elevate the Pakistan's position in the global essential oil industry. The collaboration aims for the production of high-quality, pure essential oils, catering to the burgeoning demand across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and wellness products. As part of the initiative, they will cultivate stevia, Japanese mint and sweet potatoes, with the first batch of crops in the Park for the extraction of essential oils destined for the pharmaceutical industry. Essential oils, renowned for their therapeutic properties, have witnessed a surge in popularity due to their diverse applications. From aromatherapy and skincare to natural remedies, these oils have become an integral part of modern wellness routines. Pakistan, with its diverse climatic conditions and soil, is ideal for growing herbs and plants that are rich in essential oils. Under the partnership, Anhui Annongda will transfer state-of-the-art cultivation techniques to Pakistani farmers, which will not only enhance crop yields but also ensure sustainable and efficient production of high-quality essential oils. The two companies also plan to establish a cutting-edge research laboratory specializing in advanced cell and tissue culture techniques. The facility will serve as a hub for the propagation of new plant varieties, fruits and vegetables through cell and tissue culture, thereby increasing the diversity and quality of essential oil-producing plants and medicinal herbs. —DNA

Kopi Luwak controversial coffee shaped  
by civet cats and high price tags

ISLAMABAD: Imagine sipping a cup of coffee that has been delicately processed through the digestive system of a wild cat. Yes, you heard that right! Kopi Luwak, often dubbed the "cat poop coffee," can cost upwards of \$600 a pound. For those who believe that luxury comes with a side of animal antics, this brew offers a unique flavor profile that leaves coffee lovers thrilled. Produced primarily in Indonesia—especially on the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Sulawesi—these coffee beans undergo a unique process involving the civet cat. The cat consumes ripe coffee cherries, and after digestion, the beans are

excreted in its feces. This unusual method contributes to the beans' distinct flavor. Once collected, the beans are thoroughly cleaned and roasted to perfection. Experts believe that the natural fermentation that occurs during digestion enhances the flavor and aroma, resulting in a truly exceptional taste. Step into the fascinating realm of Kopi Luwak, where coffee takes on an extraordinary twist! As APP scribe explores this unique brew, it becomes clear that many people are unaware of its origins. When they learn about the process—how civet cats digest and excrete the beans—they often refuse to

take even a sip, despite being able to afford it. This reaction sparks a lively mix of humor and insight, turning a simple coffee exploration into a vibrant conversation about preferences and perceptions. Iqbal Chaudhry, a senior journalist, had the opportunity to taste Kopi Luwak during a trip abroad. Initially unaware of its unique flavor profile, he was intrigued when he inquired about it for the first time. Captivated by its distinct taste, he found himself drawn to this extraordinary brew. However, he ultimately realized that he couldn't afford to make it a regular part of his coffee routine, unlike the more budget-friendly option

of Nescafé. Rakhshanda Taj, a resident of Islamabad and a constant visitor at Al-Fateh Mall, shared her perspective with a hint of longing: "I thought I should try it since many celebrities enjoy Kopi Luwak, and it's known as the most expensive coffee. However, after learning about the process behind it, I decided I could never bring myself to try it. It's fascinating to think this might be a choice for the Ambani family or Elon Musk, but as a government employee, indulging in such luxury feels like a distant dream." Iqra Yousuf from Islamic University expressed her astonishment about Kopi Luwak, saying.—APP

SUPARCO to  
inaugurate  
research  
center

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) is set to make history with the inauguration of the Space Applications and Research Center (SPARC-GB) in Gilgit-Baltistan on October 02. According to an official source, this pioneering event, to be attended by distinguished scientists, environmental experts, and students, will mark a significant milestone in the nation's journey toward space and environmental research. Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Gulbar Khan, will be the chief guest of the ceremony. This center represents SUPARCO's growing efforts to implement space technology and environmental monitoring across Pakistan, with a particular focus on Gilgit-Baltistan's unique challenges. Its geography makes it susceptible to climate change and natural hazards, necessitating innovative solutions for better understanding the region's vulnerabilities. SPARC-GB aims to advance space-based environmental research that addresses these urgent challenges.

The center will function as a research hub, concentrating on crucial areas such as glacier monitoring, climate change mitigation, and disaster management.—APP

COMSTECH-  
Mauritania to  
collaborate

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

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Vol: 05 Issue: 255

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## Criminal silence on Lebanon

ISRAEL'S quest to expand its theatre of genocide and destabilize the Middle East became evident with its relentless bombing campaign of Lebanon. Attacks across the country, including the capital Beirut, have resulted in hundreds of deaths, including women and children, and is a classic example of aggression against another sovereign UN member state. This savagery from the Netanyahu regime has exposed the myth of "Israel" being a "civilized country" which adheres to democratic norms, and which has a so-called right to 'defend itself against Lebanese aggression'. In fact, it demonstrates how "Israel" is a paranoid, aggressive and rogue state which conveniently flouts international law by attacking another sovereign state. While "Israel's" aggression on the Lebanese people was widely condemned at the 2024 UNGA session, the criminal indifference and deafening silence of Western governments on "Israel's" violation of Lebanese sovereignty and killing of Lebanese people is telling. So far, the narrative in the West is on the urgency to implement a ceasefire, which is undoubtedly important. However, Israel's air strikes and pager attacks meant that Netanyahu has waged war against another sovereign country, massacred its people, and is subjugating its population. The ceasefire push also becomes redundant as Netanyahu has sidelined it and is more interested in destroying and displacing the population of Lebanon. Clearly, "Israel's" actions constitute terrorism, as its attacks on Lebanon violate several international treaties and protocols that the Zionist regime is a signatory to. Yet beyond calls for a ceasefire, there is no outcry or call to hold the terrorist regime accountable. For an end to "Israel's" occupation of Gaza, or adopted measures to prevent the Israeli settlement enterprise from thriving, "Israel" continues to generate revenue to fund its attacks against innocent Lebanese and Palestinian civilians with companies such as German media giant Axel Springer, which is still engaged in business transactions with settlements months after the genocide started. There are clear double standards as far as diplomatic responses to the aggression on Lebanon are concerned. This can be contrasted with the Western reaction to Russia's operation in Ukraine for example, with the United States and its allies consistently calling for sanctions on the Putin regime and seeking to diplomatically isolate Moscow. However, when "Israel" attacks Lebanon (a sovereign UN member state) and massacres innocent citizens, the same United States, along with its allies, remains largely indifferent to the plight of Lebanese citizens. Had such air raids taken place against "Israel", the response would have been extremely different, where calls to sanction, diplomatically isolate and prosecute those responsible would be the standard *modus operandi* of Western governments. There would have been a pronounced Western outcry and complete boycott of Lebanon, which is already reeling from multiple security and economic quagmires. However, when it comes to "Israel" attacking the Lebanese people, there is criminal and deafening silence from the United States and its allies.



## Quad faces an uncertain future

CHINA continues to behave aggressively, testing us all across the region, and it's true in the South China Sea, the East China Sea, South China, South Asia and the Taiwan [Strait]," outgoing US President Joe Biden was recorded on a hot mic telling Quad leaders during a farewell summit in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. His guests from Japan, Australia and India, however, were careful not to portray the gathering as a China-bashing forum but instead as a constructive avenue for global cooperation. In their joint statement, Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida underscored their "shared values", and commitment to "the international order based on the rule of law" and "a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient". The statement did not directly single out China. Instead, the Quad leaders announced initiatives in public health, cutting-edge and critical technologies, quality infrastructure and, crucially, maritime security. Next year, the four powers plan to hold their first joint maritime patrol mission in a clear show of force and shared purpose. However, the seemingly powerful grouping faces uncertainties and potentially turbulent waters ahead. A second Donald Trump presidency could upend the US' global strategy, and jeopardise relations with key allies. Meanwhile, an ascendant India is likely to seek greater strategic autonomy. If anything, US-led multilateral initiatives involving treaty allies such as Britain, South Korea and the Philippines could prove more reliable than an unabashedly multi-aligned India. The Quad is a strange beast. Little known, perhaps, is that the grouping was the brainchild of the late Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe, who assiduously courted India to join a "democratic security diamond" and keep China's ambitions in check. Surprisingly, the strongest opposition to the Quad in the 2000s may have come from Australia, where then prime minister Kevin Rudd, a Mandarin-speaking statesman, expressly shunned any anti-China alliance amid booming trade and cultural ties with Beijing. But the strategic environment changed in the 2010s, when China began to flex its muscle in the South and East China seas, as populist or nationalist leaders took office in India (Modi), the US (Trump) and Japan (Abe, in his second stint). Meanwhile, Rudd's mostly conservative successors in Australia also turned sceptical of China, especially amid allegations of political influence operations in the country. Taking office in 2021, Biden made it clear that America's increasingly Quad-friendly and China-sceptic foreign policy was now a bipartisan consensus. The Biden administration further institutionalised the Quad with more summits and cooperation projects. During his last months in office, Biden appears determined to put a final stamp on the Quad with the announcement of new strategic initiatives. In a thinly veiled criticism of China, meanwhile, the four leaders also expressed concern over "coercive and intimidating manoeuvres in the South China Sea", amid escalating tensions between Manila and Beijing. Nevertheless, the Quad faces an uncertain future on three levels.

# After Nasrallah: Israel's ultimate target – Iran

Qamar Bashir



The formidable Israel, backed by the powerful USA, is unlikely to slow down its efforts until it has completely dismantled the leadership structures of Hamas, the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Iran and destruction of their military capabilities to prevent any future threat, whether big or small, against Israel. However, Israel's most significant and challenging objective remains the neutralization...

ON the fateful day of October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an attack on Israel, killing many of its soldiers and civilians and taking as many as 250 Israeli and other nationals hostage, aiming to use them as leverage to prevent any Israeli retaliation. The attack enraged both Israelis and Americans, prompting a robust, comprehensive, and decisive military offensive with the ultimate objective of obliterating Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and neutralizing the perceived Iranian nuclear threat. Following his address at the United Nations General Assembly, the Israeli Prime Minister ordered a targeted strike against Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah. In the attack, Nasrallah was martyred with several other high-ranking members of Hezbollah. The strike, executed with precision-guided US made bunker buster bombs obliterated Hezbollah's headquarters and nearby structures, resulting in the death of multiple occupants. This was the third high-profile killing since the start of the offensive after October 7. The first target was the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, an ardent supporter of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, who died under mysterious circumstances. According to conspiracy theories, Israel, with the assistance of the U.S., induced a fault in the electronic and communication systems of an aging helicopter. This malfunction caused the pilots to lose control, resulting in a violent crash in an uninhabitable and remote location. The second high-profile killing was that of Ismail Haniyeh, who was attending a ceremony in Iran. He was asleep, believing himself to be safe under the watchful protection of the elite Iranian Revolutionary Guards. Neither Haniyeh nor the Iranians had any clue about the origin of the precision missile that struck, killing him in a state of total helplessness and vulnerability. In addition, Israel has recently carried out a series of high-profile targeted killings like Ibrahim Qubaisi, Ibrahim Aqil, and Ahmed Wahbi, in strikes on the Lebanese capital. Fuad Shukur, Nasrallah's right-hand man, and senior commanders Muhammed Nasser and Taleb Abdallah were killed in separate strikes in Lebanon. Among Hamas leaders, Mohammed Deif, a founder of the Qassam Brigades and mastermind of the October 7 attack on Israel, was killed in Gaza and Deputy Hamas chief Saleh

al-Arouri was eliminated in Beirut. Additionally, Iranian Quds Force commanders Mohammad Reza Zahedi and his deputy, Mohammad Hadi Hajriahimi, were killed in an Israeli air strike in Damascus in April. The formidable Israel, backed by the powerful USA, is unlikely to slow down its efforts until it has completely dismantled the leadership structures of Hamas, the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Iran and destruction of their military capabilities to prevent any future threat, whether big or small, against Israel. However, Israel's most significant and challenging objective remains the neutralization of Iran's military power. Israel views Iran as its "enemy number one" due to several critical factors. Iran's nuclear ambitions pose an existential threat to Israel, as the potential development of nuclear weapons could drastically shift the regional power balance. Additionally, Iran's extensive financial and military support for anti-Israel militant groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad directly threatens Israel's security, allowing these groups to attack Israel more effectively. Coupled with Iran's ballistic missile program capable of reaching Israel and its leaders' frequent calls for Israel's destruction, these threats solidify Iran's position as the top enemy. Therefore, after neutralizing Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel's next step would most likely be to implement short, medium, and long-term strategies and plans to neutralize Iranian threats once and for all. In the short term, Israel is likely to intensify targeted strikes on Iranian military installations, nuclear facilities, and proxy forces in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon to disrupt Iran's influence and limit its ability to transfer weapons to its proxies. It may also escalate cyber warfare operations, such as sabotage attacks on Iran's nuclear infrastructure, similar to the Stuxnet virus incident. Additionally, Israel will increase intelligence-gathering efforts to identify and eliminate high-value targets within Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated militias to weaken Iran's offensive capabilities swiftly. In the medium term, Israel will focus on weakening Iran's proxy networks by continuing military actions against Hezbollah in Lebanon, pro-Iranian militias in Syria and Iraq, and Hamas in Gaza. Strengthening regional alliances with Gulf states like Saudi Arabia,

the UAE, and Bahrain will also be a priority, as these countries share concerns about Iran's regional ambitions. Moreover, Israel will actively engage with the international community, particularly the US, to maintain or increase sanctions on Iran to cripple its economy and limit its military funding. In the long term, Israel's primary goal is to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons by maintaining diplomatic pressure, supporting economic sanctions, or potentially carrying out preemptive military strikes if Iran nears nuclear capability. Israel may also subtly support efforts that promote internal dissent or uprisings within Iran, aiming for regime change that could lead to a government less hostile towards Israel. To safeguard its interests against potential Israeli aggression, Iran should adopt a comprehensive and immediate approach. It must act swiftly to provide the U.S. and Israel with clear and verifiable assurances that it has no aggressive intentions, demonstrating transparency and a willingness to engage in peaceful dialogue to avoid a rapid and intense military response from Israel. Iran must act swiftly to protect its military capabilities, manpower, and industrial infrastructure, as it cannot match the combined military and economic strength of Israel and the USA. Although Iran possesses drone and ballistic missile capabilities, their limitations were revealed during a recent coordinated attack on Israel. Despite Iran's efforts to overwhelm Israel's defense systems, Israel's advanced air defense systems, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow interceptors, were rapidly activated, intercepting and destroying nearly all incoming threats before they could inflict significant damage. Unfortunately, Iran lacks the advanced defensive capabilities of the USA and Israel, which could be devastating if a similar attack were launched against Iran. In this scenario, Iran's most prudent strategy would be to take immediate and concrete steps to avert an imminent US-Israeli attack, thereby safeguarding its people, leadership, and economic and military assets.

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

# Building Bridges: The impact of Pak-UK security cooperation

Abdullah Hamid Gul

The UK is home to one of the largest Pakistani diaspora communities, with over 1.6 million people of Pakistani origin residing there. This community has played a significant role in strengthening bilateral relations by contributing to the UK's economy, culture, and political landscape. Education is a key motivator for many Pakistanis moving to the UK. In recent years, the number of Pakistani students studying in the UK has steadily increased, with 8,500 Pakistani students enrolling in UK institutions in 2022 alone. The UK is regarded as a premier destination for higher education, offering a wide range of academic opportunities. For Pakistani students, UK universities provide high-quality education, exposure to global networks, and the potential...

THE relationship between the United Kingdom and Pakistan is deeply rooted in history, dating back to the colonial era. When Pakistan gained independence in 1947, it maintained close ties with the UK, based on shared political, economic, and cultural interests. Over the years, this bilateral relationship has evolved, shaped by global geopolitics, security challenges, and a robust Pakistani diaspora in the UK. The Commonwealth connection and diplomatic cooperation have reinforced this relationship, while trade and defense partnerships have been pivotal in solidifying it. Today, as the UK navigates its post-Brexit landscape and Pakistan faces the complexities of South Asian geopolitics, both countries are looking to strengthen their partnership. This article explores the future of UK-Pakistan relations, with a particular focus on economic security, international cooperation, and global security collaboration. UK-Pakistan relations have long been anchored in strategic cooperation, particularly in areas like counterterrorism, defense, and intelligence sharing. After 9/11, Pakistan became a critical partner for the UK in the global War on Terror. British aid and assistance have played a key role in stabilizing Pakistan's security situation, particularly in the tribal regions. In recent years, Brexit has reshaped the UK's foreign policy, leading to a renewed focus on strengthening trade relations with non-European countries. Pakistan, with its growing economy and strategic location, has become an increasingly important partner. Bilateral trade between the two nations stands at nearly £3 billion annually, with potential for further growth. The UK's Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) has provided Pakistan with favorable trade terms, allowing its exports—particularly textiles—to thrive in the UK market. Defense cooperation between the UK and Pakistan remains strong, with joint military exercises and capacity-building programs aimed at enhancing Pakistan's counterterrorism capabilities. Additionally, the UK continues to provide significant development aid to Pakistan, focusing on education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. Economic security is central to the future of UK-Pakistan relations. Pakistan has faced numerous financial challenges in recent years, including a high public debt burden, a volatile currency, and a large current account deficit. For Pakistan, strengthening economic ties with key partners like the UK is essential to ensure financial stability and growth. The UK has long been one of Pakistan's largest development partners, providing aid for education, infrastructure, and healthcare. However, there is now a growing focus on trade and investment as key drivers of economic security. British companies are increasingly exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in sectors like technology, telecommunications, and renewable energy. Post Brexit reshaping the UK's foreign trade policy, new opportunities are emerging for enhanced trade cooperation with Pakistan. As a Commonwealth member with a rapidly expanding economy, Pakistan is an attractive partner for the UK. Bilateral trade is already significant, but there is considerable potential for growth, particu-

larly in sectors like agriculture, information technology, and textiles. A key priority for both countries in the post-Brexit era is negotiating a comprehensive trade agreement. A free trade agreement (FTA) between the UK and Pakistan could significantly boost Pakistan's exports, while offering the UK access to South Asia's dynamic market. The UK's departure from the EU allows it to forge closer trade ties with Commonwealth countries, and Pakistan stands to benefit from this shift. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is another key factor in Pakistan's economic security. As part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC is a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project aimed at improving Pakistan's roads, railways, and energy sector. While CPEC is primarily a China-Pakistan partnership, there are opportunities for the UK to play a supportive role. The UK has expressed interest in collaborating with Pakistan on infrastructure projects, particularly in renewable energy and digital connectivity. By leveraging its expertise in these areas, the UK can contribute to Pakistan's economic development while strengthening bilateral ties. However, the UK will need to carefully balance its involvement in CPEC with its broader foreign policy, which includes maintaining strategic alliances with the US, a country that views China's growing influence in South Asia with caution. As global challenges become increasingly interconnected, UK-Pakistan cooperation has expanded into new areas like climate change, migration, and public health. Pakistan is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, with rising temperatures, floods, and droughts posing significant threats to food security and economic stability. The UK, a leader in global climate action, has partnered with Pakistan to mitigate the effects of climate change through joint initiatives in renewable energy, reforestation, and sustainable agriculture. Cooperation on climate resilience is likely to intensify in the coming years, with both countries recognizing the urgent need for collective action. Migration is another area where UK-Pakistan cooperation has proven effective. Pakistan continues to host large numbers of Afghan refugees, and the UK has played a key role in supporting Pakistan's efforts to manage these populations. As regional instability persists, particularly in Afghanistan, migration flows could increase, necessitating further collaboration between the UK and Pakistan on refugee integration, humanitarian assistance, and border management. The UK is home to one of the largest Pakistani diaspora communities, with over 1.6 million people of Pakistani origin residing there. This community has played a significant role in strengthening bilateral relations by contributing to the UK's economy, culture, and political landscape. Education is a key motivator for many Pakistanis moving to the UK. In recent years, the number of Pakistani students studying in the UK has steadily increased, with 8,500 Pakistani students enrolling in UK institutions in 2022 alone. The UK is regarded as a premier destination for higher education, offering a wide range of academic opportunities. For Pakistani students, UK universities

provide high-quality education, exposure to global networks, and the potential to contribute to Pakistan's economy upon their return. Over the years, thousands of Pakistanis have migrated to the UK for education, employment, and better living conditions. According to the UK Home Office, Pakistan ranked among the top five countries for visa applications to the UK in 2023. This includes a significant number of skilled workers and professionals settling in the UK, contributing to the British economy across sectors like healthcare, engineering, and information technology. The Pakistani diaspora has also had a positive impact on Pakistan's economy through remittances, with over £1 billion annually sent back home, supporting families and contributing to national development. The presence of this vibrant community is a cornerstone of UK-Pakistan relations, fostering cultural and economic ties that benefit both nations. The recent change in the UK government has opened up new possibilities for UK-Pakistan relations. Under the leadership of the new Prime Minister, the UK is expected to adopt a more outward-looking foreign policy, with an emphasis on strengthening ties with Commonwealth countries and emerging economies like Pakistan. This government's focus on expanding global trade networks, enhancing diplomatic engagement, and promoting green energy aligns well with Pakistan's development needs. The new UK government has signaled its intention to increase trade and investment with Commonwealth countries, including Pakistan. With a renewed emphasis on economic diplomacy, the UK will likely prioritize the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Pakistan, providing both countries with opportunities for growth. This government's commitment to lowering trade barriers and encouraging British businesses to invest abroad could lead to increased FDI in Pakistan's technology, energy, and infrastructure sectors. One of the key priorities of the new UK government is climate action. The UK has pledged to become a global leader in tackling climate change, and it is expected that this agenda will play a central role in its foreign policy. For Pakistan, which is already collaborating with the UK on climate resilience initiatives, this focus presents an opportunity to deepen cooperation in areas like renewable energy, disaster management, and green infrastructure development. Security and defense cooperation are likely to remain cornerstones of the UK-Pakistan relationship. The new UK government has expressed its commitment to maintaining strong defense ties with key partners, and Pakistan's strategic importance in South Asia ensures that it will remain a priority. Joint military training, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism efforts are expected to continue, with the UK playing an active role in enhancing Pakistan's security capabilities. The recent election of a new government in Pakistan also provides an opportunity to strengthen UK-Pakistan relations. The new leadership, which has placed economic revival and anti-corruption at the top of its agenda, is expected to work closely with the UK on trade, governance, and development.

## Briefs

## Current IMF programme to be final...

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rightsizing the federal government departments. The Ministry of Finance was asked to oversee the cash balances of other federal ministries. The committee provided a detailed briefing on recommended reforms for five federal ministries: the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (GB), the Ministry of State and Frontier Regions, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, the Ministry of Industry and Production, and the Ministry of National Health Services. Addressing the media today, Aurangzeb said the government's measures including securing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package would bring economic stability. On expanding the tax net, he said the government had every kind of data that would be utilised in this regard. "Only 14% retailers are registered in the sales tax at the moment." "We will be forced to block utility services of non-registered people," he warned, adding the government had ended all the exemptions on tax.

## Pakistan-Oman agree to ink MoU..

FROM PAGE 01  
Chaudhry Salik is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat. During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain apprised the Omani side of the major reforms the government was undertaking to improve the emigration process of Pakistani workers, their professional capacity enhancement and the marketing of Pakistani workforce abroad. He said that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was upgrading the technical training centers in Pakistan on modern lines which would train the workforce according to the certification requirement of each individual country or region.

## UNGA: Pakistan hits back...

FROM PAGE 01  
The Indian minister, protesting against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the Kashmir dispute in the General Assembly and went on to accuse Islamabad of pursuing a policy of cross-border terrorism. "It is a familiar play of all occupiers and colonizers to paint legitimate struggles for freedom and liberation as terrorism. India is failing to grasp the enormity of the indigenous Kashmiri resistance against its stranglehold and wrongly blaming it on cross-border terrorism," Faheem, a third secretary at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said while exercising his right of reply. "India must introspect, reflect, and immediately implement the Security Council resolutions that provide for the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination," he said, and called for holding India accountable for its actions that violate international law.

## Pakistan slams Israel's...

FROM PAGE 01  
violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, relentlessly targeting civilian population centers, and undermining its stability and security. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement. Yesterday's reckless act of killing the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon constitutes a major escalation in an already volatile region. "Pakistan continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Lebanon. We urge the United Nations Security Council to restrain Israel from its adventurism in the region and violations of international law and restore peace in the Middle East," it was further added.

# To combat drug abuse & overdose

## KKAWF, Serena Hotels unite for "Save Tomorrow" Run & Walk

Divided into four categories-16 and below, 16+, 60+, and Differently abled Persons-participants showcased their dedication to raising awareness and combating the widespread threat of drug addiction in Pakistan



SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF) and Serena Hotels successfully hosted the 8th edition of the "Save Tomorrow" Run & Walk, highlighting their shared commitment to addressing the issue of drug abuse in society. The event, held at Fatima Jinnah Park (F-9 Park) in Islamabad, drew over 500 participants, representing students, teachers, diplomats, families, differently-abled persons, all eager to highlight the perils

of drug overdose, raise awareness about prevention and remember those who have lost their lives to this menace. The event was also supported by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Capital Development Authority, US Educational Foundation Pakistan and FM 89 amongst others. Divided into four categories-16 and below, 16+, 60+, and Differently abled Persons-participants showcased their dedication to raising awareness and combating the widespread threat of drug addiction in Pakistan. Save Tomorrow 8 featured a series of

activities including walk and run competitions, open mic tributes, and a flash mob. The event began with the Police Band performing the national anthem, followed by speeches that emphasized the importance of community-driven initiatives. Cristina Von Sperling Afridi, Chairperson of KKAWF, spoke passionately about the urgent need to protect Pakistan's youth from the scourge of drug abuse, highlighting the urgency of prevention education. With 150 million youth under age 30 in Pakistan, and an estimated 8.9 million people in Pakistan

(2015) on drugs, recent successful busts by the Anti-Narcotics Force on drug peddlers supplying to students, the need has become paramount for delivering effective prevention programs, she said. Diplomats, also addressed the gathering, commending the efforts of the organizers and participants for taking a stand against this global issue. Prizes were distributed to winners in each category, honoring their commitment and participation in the cause. The 8th edition of the "Save Tomorrow" Run & Walk highlights the power of col-

laboration in the fight against drug addiction. Serena Hotels and KKAWF remain dedicated to organizing initiatives that inspire action, foster community engagement, and bring lasting change. Together, we can build a healthier, drug-free society. Previously KKAWF together with Serena Hotels has organized on IOAD national team matches of sports including cycling, football, rugby, volleyball, basketball and run and walk in collaboration with Federal Sports Board at Islamabad Sports Complex. It sees Sports as very important to keep youth away from drugs.

## Sri Lanka debutant Peiris spins New Zealand to innings defeat

GALLE: Debutant off-spinner Nishan Peiris took six wickets Sunday to seal Sri Lanka's first series win against New Zealand in 15 years with a crushing victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test in Galle. New Zealand were all out for 360 in their second innings before tea on day four after being asked to follow-on. Peiris, 27, and fellow spinner Prabath Jayasuriya shared 18 wickets in the match, the latter taking 6-42 in the first innings to bundle out the tourists for just 88 after the hosts had amassed a mammoth 602-5 declared. "Amazing how the batting unit rose to the occasion,"

Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva told reporters. "Then the spinners were too good... Once we bowled them out for less than 100 runs in the first innings, it was very difficult for them to come back into the game." New Zealand's lower order did put up some fight after resuming at 199-5 on Sunday, with Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all making half-centuries. Peiris, who had taken three second-innings wickets on Saturday, trapped Blundell lbw for 60 early in the first session, ending a 95-run stand with Phillips. Santner helped craft a 64-run partnership for the

seventh wicket before the gutsy Phillips fell on 78 when he mistimed a shot to long-on, giving Peiris his maiden five-wicket haul. Santner put together a stubborn ninth-wicket stand of 53 with Ajaz Patel before the latter was sent back, bowled by Jayasuriya, on 22. Sri Lanka sealed the victory when Santner's gritty resistance was finally broken, stumped by Kusal Mendis for 67 off Peiris. "Galle is a tough place to come and play cricket and Sri Lanka are a strong team here," said New Zealand captain Tim Southee. "We were on the wrong side of the toss and we struggled to make the breakthroughs.

We really struggled to come back from there," he added. Sri Lanka could have wrapped up the match and series in the morning session but for a succession of dropped catches. Kamindu Mendis spilled Patel on two at second slip and let Santner off on 36 in the covers. Peiris shelled another chance from Santner not long after. Sri Lanka won the opening match by 63 runs and series win is their first against New Zealand since a 2-0 win at home in 2009. The result leaves New Zealand winless from six Test appearances at Galle, with Sunday's 360 their highest innings total at the venue. - Agencies

## Lionel Messi shows admiration for Marvel

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine superstar Lionel Messi celebrated his goal by showcasing his admiration for Marvel during the match against Charlotte FC on Saturday. The captain of Inter Miami smashed the game-tying goal in the 67th minute of the match. In regard to this, the game ended with 1-1 draw. Reflecting his admiration, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner placed his hands by his side, palms down, and began to raise his heels - a liftoff like "Iron Man". Following his pose, the 37-year-old looked at his kids present in the stands at Chase Stadium. It is worth noting that the Argentine forward had showcased other Marvel characters on field including Thor, Black Panther, and Spider Man. Earlier in August, in a conversation with the Miami Herald, Messi revealed that his celebrations began after watching Marvel movies with his sons. He said: "My three sons are still on vacation, have not started school yet, so every night we watch Marvel superhero movies. They came up with the idea and asked that whenever I have a game and score a goal, I do a Marvel superhero celebration. That's how it started, and we continued that ritual. - Agencies

## Will respond to every...

FROM PAGE 01  
police near Liaquat Bagh. The Gandapur-led convoy remained stuck at the interchange for several hours due to closure of roads as the authorities had placed containers at Burhan Interchange in an attempt to thwart PTI's protest. Addressing the participants, the KP chief executive directed them to return to Peshawar and castigated the government for not granting PTI its "constitutional right". Vowing to come back with "all resources", he regretted that the police fired teargas and rubber bullets at the protesters. On the other hand, Gandapur said, scores of police officials were caught by the party activists but he rescued them. "They [police] have set a precedent of firing bullets [...] We also have guns," he stated.

## Punjab govt seeks 3-month...

FROM PAGE 01  
presented the Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Act 2024, which seeks to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, in the Punjab Assembly on September 5. Currently, the law allows the provincial government to impose Section 144 for a maximum of two days, extendable to seven days, unless there is a threat to human life, health, or safety. However, the proposed amendment would empower the deputy commissioner (DC) to enforce a ban on public gatherings for up to 30 days, while the secretary of the Home Department could impose the ban for as long as 90 days.

## Israel pounds...

FROM PAGE 01  
strikes on the densely populated area also left 55 people dead, while thousands of others have fled their homes in the neighbourhood. "I can't describe my shock at this announcement... we all started crying," Maha Karit told AFP in Beirut after Nasrallah's death. With Lebanon already deep in political and economic crisis, the escalation has pushed it to the brink, with the bombardment killing more than 700 people in a week, according to health ministry figures. The Israeli military said on Sunday its air force had struck "dozens of Hezbollah terror targets" after carrying out "hundreds" of strikes on Friday and Saturday. Lebanon's National News Agency reported a string of raids in and around the city of Baalbek in the east, with "factories, warehouses" and residential areas among the targets.

## SL appoint Jayasuriya as full-time head coach

*This decision came after the Lions delivered impressive performances in ongoing series against Black Caps*

SRI LANKA Cricket has officially announced to appoint interim head coach Sanath Jayasuriya as the permanent coach of the men's team. This decision came after the Lions delivered impressive performances under the former cricketer's leadership. Previously in July, the legendary player was appointed as the interim head coach after Chris Silverwood and Mahela Jayawardene resigned from their respective posts. The former head coach Silverwood and consultant coach Mahela Jayawardene resigned following Sri Lanka's disappointing performance in the T20 World Cup this year. Since then, one of the greatest all-rounders worked tirelessly on reviving the team. In regard to his efforts, the Lions clinched 2-0 victory in the ODI series against India in August and a Test against England at the Oval. In addition, Sri Lanka have achieved an impressive first Test victory against the Black Caps in the ongoing series and are halfway on winning the other as well. After witnessing his role in boosting the players' confidence in the dressing room has been widely appreciated. In regard to this, former Sri Lankan captain Angelo Mathews couldn't resist and praised the 55-year-old. He said: "I think Sanath Jayasuriya is taking over. He's given confidence when he was the cricket director, and now he's become the coach. - Agencies

## Pakistan Dispatches 10th Relief Consignment for Palestine

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan dispatched its 10th relief consignment consisting of medical relief items for the people of Palestine on 29 September 2024. In this regard, a ceremony was organized at Jinnah International Airport Karachi followed by departure of cargo flight to Amman, Jordan. On the special instructions of the Prime Minister, Chief Guest of the ceremony was Dr. Darshan, MNA(Sind). While the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister directed the Additional Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Najeeb Durrani to represent Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

## Mohammad Yousuf steps down as team selector

Former player expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve Pakistan cricket

LAHORE: Former Pakistani cricketer Mohammad Yousuf has officially announced his resignation from his role as a national team selector. Citing personal reasons for stepping down, Yousuf expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve Pakistan cricket. In a statement, Yousuf said, "I announce my resignation as a selector for the Pakistan cricket team for 'personal reasons'. Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan Cricket," Yousuf wrote in a post on X. Yousuf also shared his confidence in the abilities and passion of the current generation of Pakistani players, saying, "I have immense faith in the talent and spirit of our players, and wish our team all the best as they continue to strive for greatness," he added. The former legend, who represented Pakistan in 90 Test matches, 288 ODIs, and three T20Is during his illustrious career, was appointed as a selector in March 2024. He played a key role in selecting the Pakistan's squad for the T20 World Cup 2024. Meanwhile, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that the legend will focus on other key responsibilities within the cricket board. "The PCB expresses its sincere gratitude to Mohammad Yousuf for his invaluable contributions during his tenure as a selection committee member. Yousuf will continue to play a pivotal role at the PCB, sharing his extensive knowledge and experience as the batting coach at the High Performance Centre." Yousuf was the head coach of the Pakistan U19 side that finished third in the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024 in South Africa. Pakistan are languishing at eighth in the table with 16 points in the 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC) thanks to wins in two out of seven matches. Masood has lost all five Tests as captain after taking over from Babar Azam last year. - DNA

## Army, WAPDA, Customs reach quarter final



OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army, WAPDA and Customs teams reached into the quarter-final round of on-going 37th National Junior Hockey

Championship at the Naseer Banda Hockey Ground, Islamabad. Pakistan Navy Director Sports Captain Muhammad Kamran was the chief guest on the fifth day of the championship while tournament director Olym-

pian Anjum Saeed and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion which was organised by Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). In group round matches, WAPDA team reached the quarter-final round by

winning 10-0 against Balochistan. Yasir Babar, Muhammad Hassan, Nadeem Khan scored two goals each from WAPDA. The second match played between Navy and Punjab Red ended in a draw with 2-2 goals. Navy's

Rana Waleed and Muhammad Usman while Punjab's Muhammad Uzair and Muhammad Adeel scored one goal each during the match. Pakistan Education Boards defeated Sindh Blue by 1-0. Customs defeated Punjab

Whites by 3-0 while Army team won against Islamabad with 7-0 goals. Sixteen teams are competing in the tournament, which will run until October 5. The quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final will also take place on the same day.

## Briefs

**Govt guarantees foreign investor safety, unveils robust security plan**

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to bolster economic growth, Punjab Secretary for Industries and Food, Ehsan Bhutta, has reiterated the provincial government's dedication to creating a conducive environment for foreign investors. Secretary Ehsan Bhutta talking to PTV news channel reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing a secure and supportive business environment. Bhutta emphasized that a robust security framework is being implemented to safeguard investors' interests, fostering an environment conducive to growth and progress. Bhutta outlined a comprehensive strategy to boost foreign investors' confidence, including streamlined regulatory frameworks, efficient dispute resolution mechanisms, and enhanced security protocols. This multi-faceted approach aims to mitigate risks and provide a secure environment for investors to operate. The Secretary stressed that the security of foreign investments is a top priority for the Punjab government, adding, to achieve this, the government is collaborating with international organizations and leveraging cutting-edge technology to monitor and address potential security threats.

He said that Under Chief Minister Punjab leadership government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that your investments are protected and thrive in our province. He stated that the government believes in a prosperous Punjab and progressive Pakistan, highlighting their dedication to creating a favorable business environment.—APP

**151 dead in Nepal floods after relentless monsoon rains**

KATHMANDU: Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 151 people across the Himalayan republic. Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal. Home ministry spokesman Rishi Ram Tiwari told AFP that bulldozers were being used to clear several highways that had been blocked by debris, cutting Kathmandu off from the rest of the country. "More than 3,000 people have been rescued," he added. At least 36 of those killed were aboard three vehicles and were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into a highway south of Kathmandu, Nepal Police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki told media.—APP

**Marburg virus outbreak kills six, infects 20 others in Rwanda**

RWANDA: Rwanda is grappling with an outbreak of Marburg virus, which has claimed six lives and infected 20 people, the country's Health Minister, Sabin Nsanzimana, confirmed on Saturday. The majority of the victims are healthcare workers in intensive care units. Nsanzimana made the announcement in a video statement shared on X (formerly Twitter). "We are dealing with 20 confirmed infections, and sadly, six individuals have already passed away, most of them healthcare workers in ICUs," Nsanzimana said. The Marburg virus, a highly contagious and often deadly hemorrhagic fever, belongs to the same virus family as Ebola. Symptoms include severe headache, vomiting, muscle aches, and abdominal pain.—APP

**40th anniversary of slogan "Love Our China, Repair Great Wall" celebrated**

DNA

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan Mr. Khalil Hashmi participated and spoke today at the inauguration ceremony of an exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the slogan "Love Our China, Repair the Great Wall." The exhibition was held at Badaling section of the Great Wall near Beijing. Ambassador Hashmi underscored the symbolic significance of the Great Wall in China's cultural heritage and its representation of resilience and strength. He also recalled Pakistan's contribution to the restoration of a portion of the Great Wall in 1989 as a symbol of iron clad friendship between Pakistan and China. Ambassador Hashmi drew a parallel between the Great Wall and Pakistan's ancient city of Taxila, a seat of Buddhism, and the Indus Valley Civilization, emphasizing shared historical and cultural ties between the two nations. Ambassador Hashmi underlined that Pakistan and China have always enjoyed a unique and time-tested friendship, based on mutual respect, trust, and the desire to grow together. He underlined that partnership between the two countries is enriched by a deep cultural understanding which goes beyond economic and political cooperation. He analysed friendship between Pakistan and China with Great Wall



—strong, unbreakable, stable and enduring. He reaffirmed to continue to build on the foundation by expanding collaboration in diverse

fields, from trade and infrastructure to cultural exchange. Among others, the event was attended by Chinese scholars and leaders

including Mr. Bian Jinping member of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Con-

ference (CPPCC) who discussed the Great Wall's role as a symbol of international

resilience and creativity. In their welcoming note they also appreciated Pakistan's contribution to the preservation of the Great Wall.

**Speakers term Tajikistan as best destination for tourism**

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the First 'Dushanbe International Tourism Exhibition' (DITE) declared Tajikistan as the best destination for tourism in Central Asia and regional countries including Pakistan. In the first Dushanbe International Tourism Expo, businessmen and industrialists from Pakistan set up various stalls and participated in various industrial and commercial activities while participating in the exhibition. The exhibition was attended by the businesses belonging to different sectors including handicrafts, tourism and hospitality from Pakistan and also signed business and agreements with the representatives of Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce. Speakers in 'Tourism Exhibition' declared Tajikistan as best destination for tourism On this occasion, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Tourism Development Tajikistan Kamoliddin Muminzod addressed the ceremony. Addressing the exhibition on this occasion, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda said that innovation is being brought in the tourism sector in Tajikistan, which is the vision of the President of Tajikistan, Imam Ali Rehman. He said that tourism has a fundamental role in the economy of Tajikistan and is an important part of our livelihood. He said that currently there are many opportunities in cultural tourism, health and adventure tourism in Tajikistan. The Chairman of the Committee of Tourism Development Tajikistan Kamoliddin Muminzod said that Tajikistan has mountains, glaciers, rivers and lakes and opportunities for all types of tourism and the government is making innovations in tourism infrastructure. Speakers in 'Tourism Exhibition' declared Tajikistan as best destination for tourism He said that Dushanbe is the gateway for tourism in Tajikistan and Dushanbe Mayor Rustam Emomali is leading us on the Tourism 2030 vision and Tajikistan will become a center for world tourism. The Chairman said that Tajikistan has an attractive landscape for all kinds of tourism and last year more than one million tourists visited Tajikistan. He said that tourism has an important contribution in the economy of Tajikistan and the volume of the tourism sector will increase further in the country's economy. From September 25 to 27, 2024, the 1st Dushanbe International Tourism Exhibition (DITE-2024) took place at the "Dushanbe Expo Center". This significant event was timed to coincide with World Tourism Day and was initiated by the Chairman of the Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Chairman of the city of Dushanbe, Rustami Emomali. Representatives of more than 16 countries, 20 foreign companies and over 90 domestic companies took part in DITE-2024, which underlines its international importance. The exhibition provided a unique platform to strengthen ties between Tajikistan's tourism entities, especially those in Dushanbe and its partner cities, while promoting the country's natural, cultural, and wellness tourism potential.—DNA

**APBF calls for announcing special package for SMEs**

LAHORE: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has asked the government to announce special incentives for SMEs in view of saving economy, as the small industry represents more than 90 percent of around 3.2 million business enterprises in Pakistan, contributing 40 percent to the GDP, employing more than 80 percent of non-agricultural workforce, and generating 25 percent of export earnings. APBF President Syed Maz Mahmood said that the economic crisis has forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold, foreign direct investment was 11 percent lower than the investment registered last year. He said there is no visible improvement in employment, while the small and medium industries, which are the main providers of jobs, are struggling because of lack of funds and demand. The job losses at the original equipment manufacturers not significant but at auto vendors, where bulk of auto-related jobs exist are operating with minimum possible staff. He noted that inflows of Foreign Direct Investment in the country have declined by almost 12 percent during the first two months of this fiscal year (FY24-25). The State Bank of Pakistan reported that the country fetched FDI amounting to \$1.13 billion during July-Aug of FY24-25 compared to \$1.23 billion in the same period of last fiscal year (FY23-24), depicting a decline of almost 12 percent.—APP

**NASA releases never-seen-before cosmic images of stars and galaxies**

NEWYORK: NASA has released five never-before-seen images capturing the vast and intricate beauty of the universe, from the fiery surface of the Sun to distant galaxies and nebulae. These remarkable visuals provide fresh insights into the cosmos, offering a glimpse of dynamic structures formed by gas, dust, and stars. Among the most striking is a composite image of the Sun, captured using three specialized telescopes—NuSTAR, X-ray Telescope (XRT), and the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA). This multi-wavelength approach reveals the Sun's high-energy X-ray activity, showing the solar surface in unprecedented detail. The image highlights the complexity of solar dynamics, with NASA experts noting how each wavelength brings out different aspects of the Sun's activity. Another of NASA's newly-released images features the Orion Nebula, a vast stellar nursery located 1,344 light-years from Earth. Captured in infrared light, this image shows two massive cavities carved out by unseen stars that emit millions of times more light than the Sun. According to NASA, the warm dust glows in blue, while cooler dust takes on a greenish hue, offering an ethereal view of the cosmic formation. The Eagle Nebula, one of the most iconic structures in the universe, has also been reimaged in this collection. NASA's Wide Field Survey Explorer (WISE) captured the nebula's "Pillars of Creation," where star formation is still actively taking place, located approximately 5,700 light-years away.—Agencies

**PIAF chairman greets LCCI newly-elected office-bearers**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol has greeted newly-elected office-bearers of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PPPA's landslide victory in the LCCI elections, hoping the new leadership would safeguard interests of business community. He said the LCCI body would continue to raise voice for the solution of business community's problems. He said that our all candidates, after the hot contest with rivals, clinched all seats, as our candidates were highly qualified, young and dedicated enjoying the highest degree of integrity. He congratulated the newly-elected LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Khalid Usman and Vice-President Shahid Nazir, saying the PPP Alliance victory with a thumping majority is an endorsement of the economic policies of the Alliance. PIAF Chairman said that the victory of the Alliance's candidates is a victory of the entire business community that would help them get their issues resolved with a new vigour and strength. He said that the number of votes cast in favour of the PPP Alliance is enough to prove that the business community has always been with the Alliance, adding this was the biggest victory by the Alliance. He paid rich tributes to the leadership Mian Anjum Nisar for putting in their all energies to ensure a comfortable victory. He said that all efforts would be made to facilitate the members of LCCI for smooth functioning of their businesses.—Agencies

**PMD issues dengue outbreak warning next month**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued a warning of potential dengue outbreak in month of October indicating that the ideal conditions for the disease have emerged. The department said that dengue may see a significant rise in October, particularly in ten major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Larkana, and Multan. The other regions affected by post-monsoon rainfall are also at risk. Over the past decade, dengue fever has severely impacted the health of population, particularly during the post-monsoon season. The period from September 20 to December 05 has become increasingly dangerous for dengue spread, with environmental factors playing a significant role.—APP

**Putin sets nuclear boundary for west**

He will not dare to use nuclear weapons because that will make him a complete outcast," Anton Gerashchenko, a former adviser to Ukraine's internal affairs minister, said on X

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has set a "red line" for the U.S. and its allies, indicating that Moscow may consider a nuclear response if they permit Ukraine to launch strikes deep into Russian territory using long-range Western missiles. This prompts a crucial question for the West: is he serious about this threat? This inquiry is crucial for the future of the conflict. If Putin is merely bluffing, as Ukraine and some of its backers suspect, the West might feel emboldened to enhance its military support for Kyiv despite Moscow's warnings. Conversely, if he is serious, there is a significant risk—repeatedly emphasized by Moscow and acknowledged by Washington—that the conflict could escalate into World War Three. In his latest warning, Putin on Wednesday broadened the scenarios under which Russia might resort to nuclear weapons. He mentioned that such a response could occur in reaction to a significant cross-border conventional assault involving aircraft, missiles, or drones. He stated that a rival nuclear power backing a nation attacking Russia would also be deemed complicit in that attack. Both conditions directly apply to the situation that would emerge if the West allows Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory using Western long-range missiles like the U.S. ATACMS and British Storm Shadows, which Putin claims would require support from Western satellites and targeting systems. "It was a very clear message: 'Don't make a mistake — all these kind of things may mean nuclear war,'" said Nikolai Sokov, a former Soviet and Russian diplomat. Bahram Ghassee, a London-based nuclear analyst at the Henry Jackson Society think-tank, linked the timing of Putin's remarks to Ukraine's lobbying of the West for long-range missiles and the fact that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is making his case to US President Joe Biden this week. "Putin is saying: just stop it right there," Ghassee said. Reaction from Kyiv was swift, with Zelenskyy's chief of staff accusing Putin of "nuclear blackmail". "In my opinion, this is yet another bluff and demonstration of Putin's weakness. He will not dare to use nuclear weapons because that will make him a complete outcast.—APP

**Asian countries' collective efforts must for regional uplift: Ahsan**

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Asian countries will have to work together to transform it into a strong region. Addressing as guest of honour here at Asia's Energy Transition Summit on Sunday, he was of the view that energy use would determine the climate change that is a very important global issue. "We have suffered a lot due to climate change," he said. Ahsan Iqbal said that Asia accounts for 50 percent of the world's population and it will soon account for more than half of the world's GDP, asserting that Asia is also a major center of energy consumption. Federal Minister said that environmentally-friendly energy projects are implemented in Pakistan and an environment-friendly policy was also adopted to generate electricity through coal. "We have to innovate in our projects. We also have to see how the investment for these projects will be received and we need to bring many changes in our policies for creating an environment that fa-

cilitates investment and further development in the energy sector." He said, Asian countries will have to work together, citing that some countries are rich and some are poor, everyone must work to-

gether to improve Asia. Cooperation is essential for the betterment of the region: if all these things are implemented, Asia can become a stronger region. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said,

"Our target is to achieve green energy. We want everyone to have access to affordable, environmentally friendly energy." LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) in collaboration with Pakistan

Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC) has arranged the three-day summit to facilitate discussion on transition to renewable energy. Leading energy experts, researchers, civil society activists, policymakers and parliamentarians attended the event. The event was aimed at highlighting the need for coordinated efforts across Asia to mobilise finances for a transition towards renewable energy, a move away from fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency and conservation. The key objectives of the summit were to review and analyse the progress made in Asia on energy transition and align Asia's energy transition initiatives with the key targets set at COP28, especially the tripling of renewable energy, doubling of energy efficiency and moving away from fossil fuels in a decisive and definitive manner. The summit also helped in providing real-time insights and solutions to explore a viable pathway to scale up renewables and gain from the global energy transition.—DNA

**22 dead as Storm John hits Mexico**

MEXICO: The remnants of Hurricane John have wreaked havoc across southwestern Mexico, leading to at least 22 confirmed deaths and widespread destruction. Local authorities reported that the majority of casualties occurred in Guerrero, the hardest-hit state, where 18 people lost their lives, many due to devastating mudslides that crushed homes. Three additional deaths were reported in Oaxaca, while a young boy drowned in a river in Michoacan state. The storm initially struck the Pacific coastline on Monday, rapidly intensifying into a Category 3 hurricane before making landfall in Guerrero. After weakening, it reemerged over the ocean and continued to skim the coast, dumping torrential rains and causing severe flooding and landslides. By Friday, John had dissipated and was no longer classified as an active storm, but its aftermath continued to pose serious challenges for local residents.—APP



## Briefs

### China's urges global opposition to hegemony

NEW YORK: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized, at the UN General Assembly's general debate on Sunday, the need for all nations to oppose hegemony and power politics while promoting the democratization of international relations. Wang called for the creation of an equal, orderly multipolar world, where all countries, regardless of their size, have a role in the system, as per a statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry. He urged the practice of genuine multilateralism, rejecting hegemonic behavior, and making international relations more democratic. Wang also stressed that the global community must adhere to the principles of consultation, exchange knowledge, and help develop a fairer and more effective global governance system. In response to actions like sanctions and blockades, which Wang described as unilateral and bullying, he affirmed China's support for countries defending their legitimate rights. He also underscored the need for a more equitable and open international system and called for a united effort to oppose technological blockades and prevent the disruption of supply chains. Wang further noted that suppressing other nations will not solve internal issues, and that each population has the right to strive for a better life. - Agencies

### 'Gandapur not allowed to do vandalism'

**BUREAU REPORT**  
LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari warned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur not to do vandalism in Punjab. Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, she said that no one would be allowed to do vandalism in Punjab. "The PTI violated the section 144 in Rawalpindi. Law will take its course in case of violence and chaos," she said. She added that the ruling party of KP is jealous of the progress and development being carried out in Punjab. "Why don't you stage protest in KP," Azma asked. The provincial minister said that there are over 30,000 seats vacant for teachers in KP while the number of public sector universities are also on the decline. According to Azma Bokhari, Ali Amin Gandapur wanted to create rift between the Punjab and Pakhtuns. "The people of Punjab have rejected the politics of PTI as they are all praised for CM Marayam Nawaz," she said. Earlier, CM Gandapur claimed that they faced shelling and gunfire every three kilometers on their way towards Rawalpindi on Saturday.

### Taiwan on alert over missile firing

TAIPEI: Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Sunday it was on alert after detecting "multiple waves" of missile firing deep in inland China, days after Beijing said it had carried out a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Democratically governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, keeps a close watch on Chinese military drills given Beijing's regular activities around the island, but only rarely releases details of what it sees taking place inside China. The ministry said that starting from 6:50 a.m. (2250 GMT on Saturday) it had detected "multiple waves of firing" by China's Rocket Force and army in the provinces and regions of Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang, which all lie at least 2,000 km (1,200 miles) from Taiwan. Taiwan's forces are "continuously monitoring relevant developments, and air defence forces have maintained a high level of vigilance and strengthened their alert", the ministry added in a statement. - Agencies

## Diplomatic victory for Pakistan

# China, Russia, Iran confirm terror threat from Afghanistan

*'TTP, Majid Brigade, and BLA are operating from Afghanistan and posing a threat to the neighbouring country'*

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In what is seen as major diplomatic victory for Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran have confirmed that several terrorist groups including outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Majid Brigade, and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) are operating from Afghanistan and posing a threat to the neighbouring country. A quadrilateral meeting of Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran held in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session on September 27. While China, Russia and Iran were represented by their respective Foreign Ministers, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif attended the huddle on behalf of Pakistan. A joint statement issued on Sunday debunked the claims by Afghan Taliban that it was not harboring any terrorist group including the TTP. Contrary to the interim government's claims, the joint statement expressed serious concerns over the presence of several terrorist groups in Afghanistan. "The Ministers expressed deep concern over the security situation related to terrorism in Afghanistan, noting that terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Jaish ul-Adl, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and other similar groups in the region including Majeed Brigade, as well as others, based in Afghanistan, continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security," read the joint statement. The Ministers condemned the recent terrorist attacks in all shapes and forms in Afghanistan and the region, including the



attacks by ISIL-K on Karbala pilgrims on 13 September 2024 and the attacks by TTP in Bannu and Besham in Pakistan on 15 July and 26 March 2024, respectively. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the terrorism-related security situation in Afghanistan and the region and stressed the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, as well as principles of equal indivisible security, examine regional security issues from a more comprehensive and integrated perspective, and work together to address various security challenges in Afghanistan and the region. The four countries called on strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels. "Afghanistan should be supported in taking comprehensive measures to address both

the symptoms and root causes of terrorism and to eradicate terrorism at an early date," according to the statement. The joint statement acknowledged the efforts of Afghanistan's de facto authorities to combat ISIL-Khorasan. They called on de facto authorities to take visible and verifiable actions in fulfilling the international obligations and commitments made by Afghanistan to fight terrorism, dismantle, and eliminate all terrorist groups equally and non-discriminatory and prevent the use of Afghan territory against its neighbors, the region, and beyond. Meanwhile, all the four countries reiterated their support for Afghanistan's national sovereignty, political independence, unity, and territorial integrity. They reaffirmed principles of international law, particularly non-interference in its internal affairs, and the right of the Af-

ghan people to independently decide the future of their country in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. The Ministers stressed that all members of the international community have a shared interest in a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, a country that should serve as a platform for international cooperation rather than geopolitical competition. The Ministers emphasized the importance of building an inclusive and broad-based governance system in Afghanistan that reflects the interests and aspirations of all segments of Afghan society. The Ministers commended the de facto authorities' efforts to reduce the cultivation of traditional opium. They called for comprehensive measures to combat narcotics, particularly in light of the significant rise in the production of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine jointly fighting against and dismantling transnational organized criminal groups involved in the trafficking of opiates, and cutting off trade and transit corridors of narcotics within and beyond the region and stressed the importance of the international assistance to promote agricultural development and alternative crops on the way to building a society free of drug abuse. The Ministers urged de facto authorities to create conditions that facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland, prevent further migration, and take serious measures to ensure returnees' livelihoods and reintegration into political and social processes to achieve a lasting solution. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the regional countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, for hosting millions of Afghan refugees.

### Lebanon may be seeing 'largest displacement'

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati says up to one million people have been displaced by Israel's attacks on the country. Following an emergency cabinet meeting on Sunday, Mikati told reporters that his country "is experiencing the largest wave of displacement in its history." He said, "The estimated number is very high and may reach one million" - which would amount to roughly a sixth of Lebanon's population. "Our priority is to stop the ongoing Israeli aggression through continued diplomatic efforts. We have no other choice." Mikati's remarks came as Israel's warplanes bombed Lebanon, including the capital Beirut for a seventh day on Sunday. According to Lebanon's National News Agency, at least 11 people were killed in an airstrike on a house in the town of Ain in the Bekaa Valley in the northeast. At least 700 people, including at least 50 children have been killed across the country since Monday. The UN said Friday that Lebanon was facing its deadliest period in years, with its hospitals overwhelmed by casualties. - Agencies

### DIK to Kohat has become a no-go zone

He remarked that the Chief Minister KP was too occupied with rallies to address these issues

DNA

MULTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has stated that the area from Dera Ismail Khan to Kohat has become a "no-go area". He emphasised that the provincial government's authority was absent in the region. Speaking to the media in Multan, Kundi expressed concerns over the increasing unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, criticising the provincial government for its failure to establish peace. He remarked that the Chief Minister KP was too occupied with rallies to address these issues. Kundi claimed that although the KP government received 600 billion for security, yet the KP police lacked the necessary resources. Kundi said that he had invited all political leaders, including PTI leaders, in the province to sit together to address these issues.

## Naqvi lauds China's role for Pakistan' economy



The interior minister meets Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said China's historical role for strengthening Pakistan' economy is unforgettable. He expressed the remarks during meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren in Lahore on Sunday. He said that CPEC projects have taken Pakistan-China friendship to new heights. The interior minister felicitated him on Chinese National Day. They discussed matters of mutual interest and ways to boost bilateral ties.

Mohsin Naqvi said that under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China has crossed new milestones of progress. He said that China is most trusted and loyal friend of Pakistan and its fast paced progress is a role model for all. Interior Minister said that China's historical role for strengthening Pakistan' economy is unforgettable. He said that Pak China friendship will remain intact and strong forever. Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Consul General thanked Interior Minister on doing some procedural amendments on Chinese businessmen's request. He said that Pakistan is China's best friend and our cooperation will always continue.

## 'Fake' parliament lacks mandate for amendment

JUI-F general council re-elects Maulana Fazl as party's chief, Abdul Ghafoor Haideri as secretary-general for five years

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: After being re-elected as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief for five years, Maulana Fazlur Rehman has slammed the incumbent government, saying that the "fake parliament" lacks a real mandate for a major constitutional amendment. "We want a fresh [general]

election," Fazl said while addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the party's intra-party poll in Peshawar on Sunday. "This parliament does not deserve this huge constitutional amendment." The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request last month for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top judge. The ruling coalition left no stone unturned to woo Fazl, with leaderships of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) holding a flurry of meetings with the cleric, but to no avail. Detailing ongoing consultations with the PPP and the major opposition party - PTI, he said that the JUI-F and the said parties would share their draft amendments. The cleric stressed that such amendments should be brought forward which provides relief to the masses and strengthen democracy without compromising the sovereignty of parliament. "Judicial reforms should not be individual-centric."

## KP government to take legal action against police crackdown

Cases lodged against 58 local leaders for alleged vandalism, raising anti-state slogans, assaulting police personnel etc

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI/PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Sunday announced to take legal action over clashes between Punjab police and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers during its protest in Rawalpindi for which cases have been registered against dozens of party leaders. "The government had planned a Model Town-like tragedy yesterday. [Our] workers were [subjected] to straight firing [and] our women [workers] were shelled upon," said Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif. The spokesperson's statement comes after the Imran Khan-founded party "called off" its protest in Rawalpindi due to violent clashes between police and workers on Saturday. The former ruling party had announced holding a demonstration in the city, however, the Punjab government had then imposed Section 144 banning all political gatherings,

sit-ins, rallies, protests and similar activities. With PTI workers attempting to head towards the Liaquat Bagh, the police had resorted to teargas shelling to disperse the crowd which was then retaliated by party activists who started hurling stones and glass bottles at the law enforcers. Speaking to Geo News on yesterday's events, Barrister Saif said that the KP government will approach the courts and directions will be issued to the provincial advocate general for taking legal action in this regard. Which law justifies the use of shelling against peaceful workers, questioned the provincial government official. His remarks come after KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur, irked by police action, said that they would reply to every bullet, shell and baton that would be used against its supporters. "More than 50 PTI workers have been injured in shelling as shells and bullets were fired every three kilometres on us," he said in a statement on Sunday, adding that bullets were fired on three of their workers and the whereabouts of one of them could not be traced.

## Over 20 labourers abducted in Musakhel

QUETTA: Balochistan continues to suffer from violence as more than 20 labourers were "abducted" by armed men in Musakhail, police said on Sunday. The gunmen opened fire on the camp of the labourers working for a gas company, set ablaze eight bulldozers and took away over 20 labourers with them, the police added. The incident comes hours after seven labourers were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in a house in the province's Panjur district. Police detailed that the labourers were residing in a house in the district's Khuda-e-Abadan area, where the incident occurred and left seven people dead and on wounded. The Panjur deputy commissioner also confirmed the gruesome incident and said that the attackers barged into the house and opened fire at the residents. Police officials told the media that the deceased and injured persons were shifted to Panjur District Hospital. Meanwhile, a search operation has been launched to track down the perpetrators of the brutal attack. Both the Musakhel and Panjur incidents reflect the security challenges faced by the province which has witnessed the brunt of terrorist attacks, along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, amid the increase in terrorist incidents faced by the country in recent months. Last month, 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from buses and trucks in the Rarasham area of Muskhel district. - DNA

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