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Uruguay's legend Luis Suarez confirms international retirement

Detailed News On Page-06

Russian missile strike kills 41, says Zelensky

Detailed News On Page-08



Ahsan for integrated energy model

Detailed News On Page-04



'Inflation easing gradually'

PM Shehbaz vows to ensure country's economic growth

Efforts of finance minister, SBP, and other institutions in controlling inflation are commendable, says Shehbaz Sharif

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a federal cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on Tuesday. At the start of the session, he expressed satisfaction over inflation falling into single digits in August. "The efforts of the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank of Pakistan, and other relevant institutions in controlling inflation are commendable," Shehbaz said. "The burden of inflation is gradually easing. We need to bring more stability to the economy, and creating job opportunities remains our top priority." The federal cabinet approved a post-facto framework trade agreement between MERCOSUR and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, following a recommendation from the Ministry of Commerce. The agreement was ratified, with Shehbaz noting that the South American market could be a valuable opportunity for Pakistani products, which have yet to benefit from it.

PICTURE ON BACK PAGE

He directed swift action on all pending economic agreements and memorandums of understanding. "All agreements related to the economy that have seen no progress must be expedited," the prime minister instructed. The cabinet also approved a memorandum of understanding for bilateral political consultations between Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Albania's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Additionally, the cabinet ratified the convention on privileges and immunities for the Secretariat, its staff, and representatives of member countries for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. In other decisions, the cabinet extended the tenure of Senior Joint Secretary Syed Junaid Akhlaq as Chairman of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education until a regular officer is appointed. Furthermore,

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Fin min calls for 'collective efforts' from all sectors

Urges to expand tax net to sustain the economy

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday stressed the need for "collective efforts" from all sectors while speaking about increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio amid resistance to tax reforms from traders. Traders and retailers nationwide have gone on multiple strikes against new tax measures introduced by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), particularly its Tajir Dost Scheme. The scheme, which aims to formalise the retail sector by bringing traders and wholesalers into the tax net, has been opposed by various trade bodies since its inception. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad today, the finance minister talked about the issue of taxation in the country and urged that it needed to be expanded to sustain the economy. "Look, we are very clear that we need to take this forward and there is a very basic reason for it — last year, we only increased our

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NATIONAL DAY OF MALAYSIA



ISLAMABAD: Jam Kamal, Federal Minister of Commerce, Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh, High Commissioner of Malaysia, Puan Amelia Amani Lee Abdullah along with others are cutting cake on the occasion of the 67th National Day of Malaysia. — DNA

Deputy PM to embark on 5-day visit to UK

Ishaq Dar will meet Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and others

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Ishaq Dar, will undertake an official visit to the United Kingdom from Wednesday to Sunday. During his stay in London, Ishaq Dar will meet Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and hold extensive talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs, David Lammy.

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Da'ish claims Kabul attack that killed 6

Group says it was in response to the revival by Taliban of detention facilities at the high-security Bagram base

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Da'ish on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Afghanistan's capital Kabul that killed six people a day earlier, saying it was in response to the revival by Taliban authorities of detention facilities at the high-security Bagram base. The historic Soviet-built air strip was the main base for American forces in Afghanistan

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Demands fair trial Imran petitions IHC against 'possible' military custody

Imran has previously claimed that there is a plan to try him in the military court. He had also said that arrested former intelligence chief Gen (retired) Faiz Hameed was being forced to turn approver against him

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan on Tuesday petitioned the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against his possible military custody for the trials under way against him related to the May 9 cases. Countrywide protests erupted on May 9 last year after the paramilitary Rangers whisked away Imran from the IHC in a corruption case. While the protests were underway, social media was flooded with footage of rioting and vandalism at various spots, including the Lahore Corps Commander's residence and General Headquarters, the army's head of office in Rawalpindi. The already incarcerated former prime minister was "arrested" in these cases

Continued on Page 06

PTI has every right to hold rally on Sept 8

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the party has every right to hold its planned rally on September 8, stressing that no obstacles should be placed in its path, reported 24News-HD TV channel Tuesday. In a conversation with journalists during a trial in KotLakhpur jail in Lahore, he said that the party showed respect for all including state institutions during

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Terrorists operating from Afghanistan

No plans for a military operation in Balochistan, interior minister informs Senate panel

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has informed the Senate Standing Committee on Interior that most individuals involved in recent terrorist activities in the country had been released under a previous agreement and were operating from Afghanistan. While briefing the Senate committee on Tuesday, Naqvi stated that there were no plans for a military operation in Balochistan. He added, "The incident on August 26 was orchestrated by banned organisations, involving multiple groups."

Judicial reforms Govt's top priority, says Tarar

Says the govt is actively working on it

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that judicial reforms are the top priority of the present government. Speaking in the National Assembly today, he said the government is actively working on it over the last five months. Eight bills were laid before the house today. These included: The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024, (Article 184); The Criminal Laws Amendment Bill, 2024, the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Amendment in Article 51, 59 and 106); The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Article 177, 193 and 208); The Contempt of Court (Repeal) bill, 2024.

Top military brass vows

Hard-earned gains against terrorism won't be allowed to reverse

Resolve comes after COAS Gen Asim Munir presides over CCC at GHQ in Rawalpindi, says ISPR



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ. Participants offered Fateha and paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives in Balochistan

and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuit of peace and stability of Pakistan. The forum was briefed on the prevailing geo-strategic environment, national security challenges, and strategic and operational responses to emerging threats. In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and KPK,

Continued on Page 06

Mengal resigns from NA over Balochistan crises

BNP-M leader says he has "no confidence" in the state, the president and the prime minister

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Tuesday resigned as the National Assembly member over the worsening situation in the province, declaring no confidence in the state, the president and the prime minister. "I announce my resignation from the Assembly today. I made this decision after witnessing the situation of Balochistan," said Mengal during the National Assembly session. Regretting that he could not do anything for the people of the province, the politician said they have not been given the right to rule for a year and that he has lack of trust in the whole system. "People are not interested in the issues of Balochistan and everytime this issue is raised, we face a blackout," he said. "This assembly does not listen to us, what's the point of sitting here?" Speaking to a private news channel, Mengal said that the decision is made by his conscience. He questioned where they would go when the roads to the Parliament are all blocked. Mengal, who is the member of NA-256, said the prevailing

Continued on Page 06

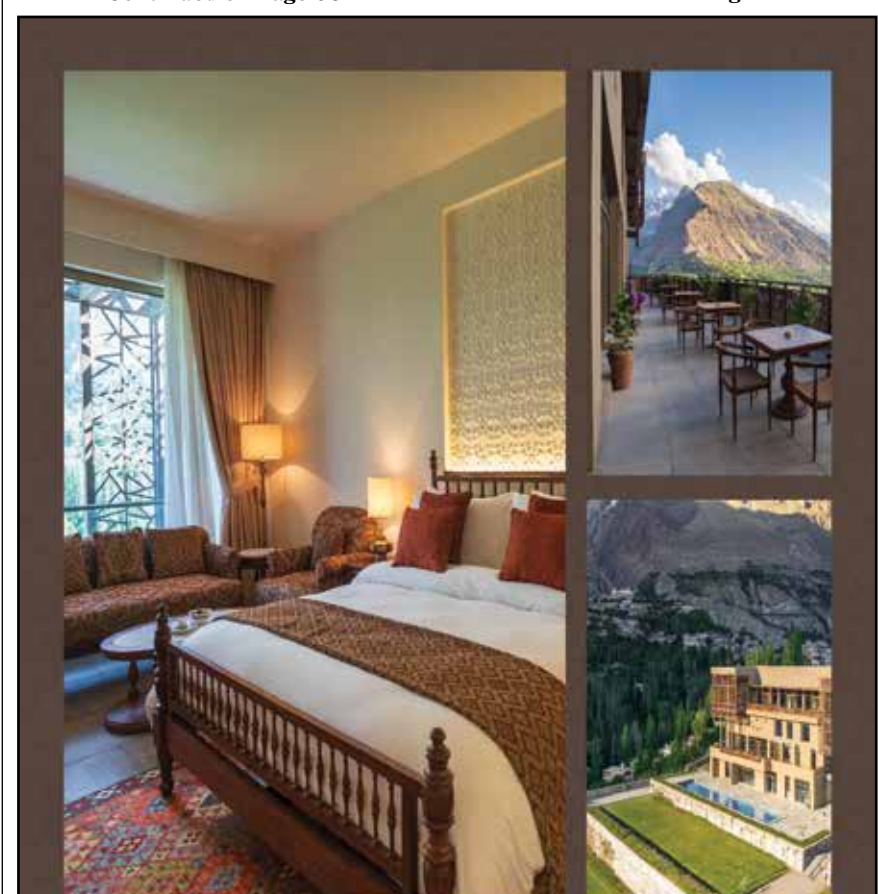
Omar Ayub blames government for plummeting economy

Says PTI leaders and workers just fear Almighty Allah

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan on Tuesday blamed the government for destroying a better-performing economy. He made these remarks while speaking to media in Lahore. The opposition leader stated that economy was improving during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He accused Defence Minister Khawaja Asif for being desperate when former premier

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DPM Dar, US envoy discuss bilateral ties, cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome on Tuesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the meeting, they discussed various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including the avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, according to a foreign ministry's press release. They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.—APP

RDA appoints two superintendents, four surveyors to strengthen field surveillance

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) taking a significant step to curb illegal construction and enhancing the monitoring of private housing schemes appointed two new superintendents and four surveyors. According to a RDA spokesman, these appointments are part of the RDA's ongoing efforts to ensure strict compliance with building regulations and to protect the urban environment. The newly appointed officials would play a critical role for field surveillance, ensuring that all construction activities within the RDA's jurisdiction adhere to approved plans and legal requirements. The two new superintendents, known for their extensive experience in urban development, would lead the teams responsible for overseeing field operations. Their expertise would be crucial in identifying and taking immediate action against unauthorised construction activities, the spokesman said.

He said that the four surveyors, equipped with modern tools and techniques, would conduct regular inspections of private housing schemes and their task would be to ensure that these schemes comply with the RDA's regulations, helping to prevent any illegal expansions or alterations that could compromise the city's infrastructure and planning. The spokesman said, the appointment of these new officers reflects the commitment of RDA to maintain the integrity of urban development in Rawalpindi. By enhancing the field surveillance capabilities, the Authority aims to provide a safer and more regulated environment for the residents of our city, he added.

KP govt to implement 10-year new agriculture policy to ensure food security

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Sajjad Barkwal has said that the provincial government would soon approve a 10-year new agriculture policy to ensure food security in the region. Presiding over a review meeting of the Joint Co-ordination Committee of the Agriculture Department here, he said that under the new policy, the barren land would be made cultivable while additional suitable land would be selected for the successful cultivation of saffron and other crops and increase the production. He directed that a committee should be formed to ensure the use of the funds allocated by the government for various agricultural projects promptly and in the best interest of the landowners. The meeting attended by Secretary Agriculture Atta-ur-Rehman, DGs of all wings, and other relevant officials gave a detailed briefing to the provincial minister and told that agricultural projects in the province include 21 ADP schemes for settled areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and eight ADP schemes for the merged districts. Various suggestions for development also came out during the meeting.—APP

Ethiopian cultural troupe set to enthrall audiences at ICCI hall

Ambassador Beker announced that the Embassy plans to host a cultural ceremony at the Chamber House on September 11, coinciding with Ethiopian National Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ethiopia have a long history of cooperation and friendship with strong ties in various fields such as trade, culture, and education. The similarities between Pakistan and Ethiopia are numerous, including their commitment to sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic development. Both countries also share a rich cultural heritage and a strong desire for regional peace and stability. This has been stated by Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula Ambassador of Ethiopia while talking to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his visit to the Chamber House. The Ambassador praised Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's endeavors in fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia as well as with African nations at large. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to further strengthen the strategic partnership and bring the people of both countries closer together. He stressed that collective efforts are essential to deepen mutual understanding, promote economic cooperation and enhance the overall bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Beker announced



that the Embassy plans to host a cultural ceremony at the Chamber House on September 11, coinciding with Ethiopian National Day. The event aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Ethiopia, featuring a cultural troupe that will perform for the audience. This initiative seeks to foster greater understanding and closeness between the people of Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Furthermore, on September 12, the Embassy will organize a marathon in Islamabad, which will bring together esteemed runners from Ethiopia, diplomats, dignitaries, students, and other participants. On this occasion, the 'Green Legacy' initiative of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed was discussed as a potential area of collaboration. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari acknowledged Dr.

Jemal Beker Abdula's efforts and pledged his wholehearted cooperation and support to the Embassy in strengthening the existing relationship. He stated that hosting an event at ICCI on Ethiopian National Day would be an honor for the Chamber. Bakhtawari recognized the Ambassador's contributions to deepening the partnership by warmly terming him the "Ambassador of Pakistan."

He also commended the Ambassador's initiatives for a green and clean Islamabad, stressing that collective efforts are necessary to raise awareness about climate change among the masses. Bakhtawari also expressed hope that Ethiopian Airlines' direct flights will significantly boost bilateral relations, particularly in the tourism sector. He noted that the Airlines' direct operations from Lahore and Islamabad after Karachi will be a notable achievement during the Ambassador's tenure. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group and Chairman Pakistan-Africa Friendship Association, praised Ambassador Beker's initiatives by emphasizing that African states hold paramount importance for Pakistan in terms of exploring new business opportunities and boosting its exports. He recognized the immense potential for trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Africa and expressed optimism that collaborative efforts will bear fruit and lead to deepening of relations in all fields. ICCI member Kashif Zaheer, Zia Chadurhy, Nisar Mirza, Secretary General Ghulam Mustafa Siddique were also present on the occasion.

Drive against plastic bags underway

BAHAWALPUR: The Punjab Environment Department has intensified the campaign against plastic bags in the region to make environment pollution-free, said Inspector Waheed Murad Lashari. According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, measures were being taken to overcome use of plastic bags at large scale. He highlighted that "the bags having thickness less than 75 micron would not be allowed". Traders and shopkeepers were urged to ensure not pack products, groceries and other items in plastic bags having thickness less than 75 micron.—APP

Elected LG representatives announced sit-in in front of CM House

PESHAWAR: The elected local government representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday announced a stage a sit-in in front of the Chief Minister's House here for the resolution of their problems including release of funds and other issues. In this regard, the Provincial Action Council (PAC) meeting of local body representatives held here at the office of Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali. All mayors, chairmen, Nazimeen and councilors including Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali participated in the meeting. It was unanimously decided that a sit-in would be held outside the Chief Minister's House on September 4, in which all elected local body representatives would participate. The participants would gather at Jinnah Park and march to the CM Secretariat where they would stage a sit-in. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Mardan Bakhtullah Mayar said that the provincial government was not giving administrative and financial powers to local government representatives, adding that the current provincial government through unnecessary amendments in the local government act reduced their powers and funds, which were not acceptable in any case. On this occasion, Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali said that all local body candidates of ANP, Jamaat-e-Islami, PTI, PPP and PML-N would participate in the sit-in, adding that the provincial government should immediately empower the local government representatives financially and administratively. Mayor Hamiyatullah said that local body representatives should be given powers according to the 2019.—APP

Huge debts threatened the integrity of the country

Economic manager's time is wasted on borrowing and repayments
Terrorism should not be mixed with political issues: Mian

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Tuesday that those who consider borrowing the solution to every problem of the country have jeopardized the economy and threatened the integrity of the country. He said the country is now buried under a mountain of debt, and it has become difficult to get out. Mian Zahid Hussain said that if all the time and energy of the Ministry of Finance

officials and CEOs of large state-owned companies is spent dealing with energy and loans, how will the country develop? Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the economic managers and the heads of big institutions like PIA and Railways have to deal with one borrower after another. Repayment of loans also keeps them busy, draining away all the time needed for planning and development. Mian Zahid Hussain said that, similarly, economic managers spend most of their time repaying old loans and obtaining new loans to keep the system afloat. The business leader said that arranging loan repayments and taking new loans has become a routine that prevents anyone from

doing anything constructive. Mian Zahid Hussain said that debt management is becoming more complicated and time-consuming. At this time, the IMF wants Pakistan's friendly countries to first roll over the debt of twelve billion dollars, after which it will start lending. In contrast, the friendly countries and other lenders want Pakistan to start the IMF program first, after which they will start lending. In this conflict, the country is experiencing a delay in receiving the IMF loan, causing losses and increasing investors' anxiety. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country's resources are limited, which the IMF is concerned about. Some important sectors of the country's economy

are not ready to pay taxes, worsening the situation instead of improving it. The anti-Pakistani forces have successfully mixed terrorism with political issues, which have ignited hatred in the two provinces. Instead of being confused by this agenda of anti-Pakistan forces, terrorists need to be crushed with full force. The non-stop apprehension of past rulers who tried to solve even minor political issues with the help of a stick has turned these minor issues into militancy and insurgency, which has raised questions about the future of CPCC, Gwadar, and big dam projects. These projects' costs have increased enormously while their security costs are climbing.

CDNS to achieve mark of Rs 160 billion in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 160 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 10.3 percent of the annual target in the first months of current fiscal year, from July 1 to August 31st. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here Tuesday. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth in the Islamic economy in the country. Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th. National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year,

"We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target." CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2021-22) which will promote a savings culture in the country, he said, adding that given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added. The official added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds.—DNA

AIOU inaugurates adult literacy center

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) proudly inaugurated its new Adult Literacy Center in a ceremony held on Tuesday, demonstrating its continued commitment to accessible and inclusive education. The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, who emphasized the university's dedication to bringing education directly to the people and underscored its mission of universal education without compromise. In his keynote address, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood highlighted the importance of teamwork in institutional growth and stressed that every individual who engages with the university should be positively influenced by its ethos. "Our goal is to ensure education for all," Dr. Nasir stated. "There is no substitute for education, and we are committed to providing it at every doorstep. Institutions advance through collective effort, and it is vital that everyone performs their duties with excellence, as this brings both respect and success." The ceremony also honored 30 participants who completed a training program on hospitality management for university hostels and guest houses. The training, conducted by Abid Salam Agha from Islamabad Club, was coordinated by Dr. Zohaer Ahmed of the Special Education Department. Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Chairman of the Distance and Non-Formal Education Department, reiterated the university's dedication to expanding educational programs to regional centers, noting, "Education is vital, and our employees' expertise is crucial for our development." The university remains committed to advancing educational opportunities and supporting its employees through comprehensive training programs, ensuring that its mission of accessible education continues to thrive.—APP

RDA appoints two superintendents, four surveyors to strengthen field surveillance

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) taking a significant step to curb illegal construction and enhancing the monitoring of private housing schemes appointed two new superintendents and four surveyors. According to a RDA spokesman, these appointments are part of the RDA's ongoing efforts to ensure strict compliance with building regulations and to protect the urban environment. The newly appointed officials would play a critical role for field surveillance, ensuring that all construction activities within the RDA's jurisdiction adhere to approved plans and legal requirements. The two new superinten-

dents, known for their extensive experience in urban development, would lead the teams responsible for overseeing field operations. Their expertise would be crucial in identifying and taking immediate action against unauthorised construction activities, the spokesman said. He said that the four surveyors, equipped with modern tools and techniques, would conduct regular inspections of private housing schemes and their task would be to ensure that these schemes comply with the RDA's regulations, helping to prevent any illegal expansions or alterations that could compromise the city's infrastructure and planning. The spokesman said, the appointment of these

new officers reflects the commitment of RDA to maintain the integrity of urban development in Rawalpindi. By enhancing the field surveillance capabilities, the Authority aims to provide a safer and more regulated environment for the residents of our city, he added. He informed that RDA had urged all the developers and residents to cooperate with the newly appointed officials and ensure that all construction activities are conducted within the legal framework. The Authority remains dedicated to its mission of sustainable urban development and would continue to take all necessary measures to prevent illegal construction practices, he added.

New agri policy to ensure food security

PESHAWAR: The Joint Co-ordination Committee of the Agriculture Department met under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister of Agriculture Sajjad Barkhwal to implement the new agricultural policy, aiming to ensure food security in the region after it's approval by the provincial government. The minister announced that out of 49 agricultural projects for 2024-25, 21 schemes will be allocated to settled districts and 8 to merged districts. The projects focus on utilizing available resources to make barren lands cultivable and selecting suitable land for increased saffron cultivation and production. He emphasized the need to select suitable land for cultivation and increase saffron yield, highlighting the importance of this crop for the region's economy. The new agricultural policy aims to boost agricultural productivity and ensure food security in the region.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

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

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Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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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.....5611116
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



ISLAMABAD Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani is being presented the annual report of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum.—DNA

ANF launches operation against drug dealers

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Airport Security Force (ASF) in a joint operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport recovered 53 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Jeddah bound female passenger, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. The spokesman informed that 53 capsules containing 318 grams heroin were recovered from the handbag of the accused

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has launched a grand operation across the country to curb the drugs from educational institutes, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that ANF on the special directives of Director General (DG) ANF launched the operation in the vicinity of educational institutes to net the drug dealers supplying drugs in

educational institutes. He said, two suspects involved in selling drugs in educational institutions in Jhelum and Rawalpindi were arrested during last 24 hours. Over 2438 grams drugs were recovered from the possession of the accused arrested in Rawalpindi while over 2400 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of two accused arrested in Dina, Jhelum. The arrested accused confessed to supplying drugs to a big private educational institution in Islamabad. Elements involved in

supplying drugs to students of educational institutions do not deserve any concession, ANF spokesperson said. He informed that a grand operation had been launched to keep educational institutions safe from drugs. 60 intoxicated tablets were also recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Rawalpindi and an accused was arrested. In another operation, 5 kg heroin worth Rs 9 million was recovered from the possession of an accused netted on Jamrud Road Peshawar.

It is first priority of ANF to arrest the anti-national elements who are trying to destroy the future of the youth. Cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigations are under process. Meanwhile, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Airport Security Force (ASF) in a joint operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport recovered 53 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Jeddah bound female passenger, said an

ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. The spokesman informed that 53 capsules containing 318 grams heroin were recovered from the handbag of the accused. A case has been registered against the accused under Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation is under process. The spokesman said that there is an alarming increase in the use of women and children in drug trafficking and ANF is fulfilling its responsibilities in this regard.

SECP Issues warning against fraudulent social media groups

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a public alert regarding the increasing number of fraudulent social media and WhatsApp groups that are operating under the guise of investment training courses. A press release issued by the SECP said that these groups are impersonating well-known local and international business personalities or reputable international financial companies to deceive the public. The operators/handlers of these groups are charging fees from individuals to grant them membership, promising exclusive access to insider tips and training on investments. SECP warns the public that these activities are fraudulent and are aimed at looting innocent people.—APP

Death anniversary of playback singer Habib Wali Muhammad observed

ISLAMABAD: 10th death anniversary of Playback singer Habib Wali Muhammad observed on Tuesday. He was born in Rangoon, Burma in 1924, Habib Wali Mohammad embarked on a singing career during the 1950s when he was in his early 20s in Bombay. He participated in several local music competitions winning the first prize in one such competition in 1941 slowly establishing his reputation as a singer, PTV news channel reported./ Habib gained fame by singing Bahadur Shah Zafar's ghazal Lagta nahai ji mera, Ujray diyar mein. In 1970, he sang two ghazals for the film Baazi, 'Aashiyaa Jal Gaya' and 'Raatein Theen Chaandni' establishing his reputation in his new homeland.—APP

Eight bills referred to concerned committees

ISLAMABAD: As many as eight bills were referred to the concerned committees on Tuesday for further deliberation and consideration as well. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 184) introduced by Noor Alam Khan, this bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It pertains to suo motu powers and proposes that a bench of nine judges should decide on such cases. The bill was referred to the committee. The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced by Sohail Sultan, this bill seeks to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. It proposes increasing the punishment for cheque bounce cases. The bill was referred to the committee. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Amendments to Articles 51, 59, and 106) Noor Alam Khan introduced this bill to allocate reserved seats for overseas Pakistanis in the national and provincial assemblies. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar acknowledged that the government is working on this issue, emphasizing the significant role of overseas Pakistanis in the country's development. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Articles 177, 193, and 208) Noor Alam Khan also introduced this bill, which seeks to prevent individuals with dual nationality from being appointed as judges of the courts. The Contempt of Court (Repeal) Bill, 2024 Noor Alam Khan introduced a bill to repeal the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003 (V of 2003). The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 198) introduced by Changaze Ahmed Khan, this bill proposes amendments to Article 198 of the Constitution. The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Noor Alam Khan introduced this bill, which proposes that bureaucrats should not hold dual nationality. The Allocation of Special Seats for Deserving Persons in Universities Bill, 2024 introduced by Syed Rafiullah, this bill aims to reserve special seats for deserving students in universities and higher education institutions. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Introduced by Danyal Chaudhary, this bill seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, by increasing the number of judges to address the growing number of cases. However, the bill was deferred by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Senate has discussed the bill in detail and highlighted the need for judicial reforms in the country. The bill also faced objections from Gohar Ali Khan of the Sunni Ittehad Council.—DNA

Plan devised to bring barren land for cultivation under green Pak initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Water Resources Dr Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that under Green Pakistan Initiative, a plan has been devised to bring barren land in the country under cultivation and enhanced per acre crops productivity through employing various modern techniques. Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Syed Naveed Qamar and others regarding the news in the media of 4.8 million acres of land being given for corporate farming resulting in diversion of water, he said 812,000 acres of land has been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation. He said it would a joint venture and so far Punjab and Sindh have transferred land. However, other provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan have not yet transferred land. The minister said a company has also been registered under green initiatives.

Under the plan, 40 per cent revenue each would be given to the respective province and investors while remaining 20 per cent revenue would be purely specified for research and development (R&D) in this sector. He said required irrigation water for the scheme would be provided from share of the respective province. Around 400,000 acres command area would come under the Cholistan scheme in Punjab, he said. He said the project would cost Rs 211 billion under which 296 kilometer long canal would be constructed. It would consist of 176 km long Cholistan Canal and 120 km Marur Canal, he added.

He categorically said that water distribution in the said canals would be purely met through the share of respective provinces and Indus River System Authority (IRSA) would issue proper certificate in this regard. The Cholistan Canal would get water for four months from share of Punjab province while for 2 months it would feed through flood water, he said.

Responding to a point raised by Syed Naveed Qamar, the minister said the federal government could not ask from the provinces about their water share distribution in their respective provinces after the 18th constitutional amendment. He went on to say that two provinces- Punjab and Sindh have signed agreement so far and identified land for the said scheme under Green Pakistan Initiative. Musadik Malik said that telemetry system was being installed on water distribution system which would completely address reservation of provinces in judicious water distribution as per the water accord. He said the project mainly aimed at enhancing per acre yield through drip irrigation, tunnel farming and productive farming which required massive investment. It was also an attempt to bring barren land under cultivation, he added. The minister also urged the Speaker to set up a committee of the House under chairmanship of Naveed Qamar or Khurshid Shah to thoroughly discuss the issue.

NA passes resolution for provision of improved healthcare facilities

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution urging the government to take immediate steps to provide state-of-the-art medical facilities in federal government hospitals and ensure high-quality healthcare for all patients. The resolution was moved by Aliya Kamran, who stated, "The government should take immediate steps to provide state-of-the-art medical facilities in federal government hospitals and ensure high-quality healthcare for all patients." The session was adjourned to meet again on Wednesday at 11 a.m. after Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan (MWM) member Hameed Hussain pointed out the lack of quorum. Death anniversary of playback singer Habib Wali Muhammad observed.—DNA

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Briefs

Inflation rate drop to 9.6% not an accident but results of govt efforts: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the reduction in Pakistan's annual inflation rate to 9.6% was not an accident rather it was the outcome of the government's efforts.

Around 40 technical trade centers blacklisted: BEOE

ISLAMABAD: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) had blacklisted around 40 technical trade centers across the country due to the complaints and involved in fraud cases with innocent citizens.

PIDE hosts 4th RASTA conference to unveil key research findings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted the 4th RASTA Conference, a two-day event that showcased pivotal research findings in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, exports, and investment.



Kazi Afaq Ahmed from the Institute of Business Management, Karachi, opened the session with a presentation on the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan. His study provided an in-depth analysis of the manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API).

staffing and insufficient mental health support systems, which contribute to the high levels of stress and burnout among healthcare workers. He proposed several policy recommendations, including the implementation of a General Practitioner (GP) system that could alleviate pressure on specialists and a national initiative for enhanced training of healthcare providers to better manage stress and improve overall healthcare delivery.

quality in higher education. The session concluded with Rafiullah Kakar, Member of the Social Sector, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who provided closing remarks synthesizing the insights from the presentations and emphasizing the need for integrated policy approaches to address the multifaceted challenges in education and healthcare.

IFA inspects 1272 food outlets, discards 10,176 kg/L unhygienic food items

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Dr. Tahira Siddique, stated that the authority inspected 1,272 food outlets last month and imposed fines totaling Rs 2 million on 100 outlets found flouting regulations.

Ahsan highlights importance of integrated energy model for future needs

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized on Tuesday that the integrated energy model is crucial for meeting the country's future energy needs through efficient, reliable, affordable, clean and renewable resources.

75 Pakistani pilgrims participate in Urs

ISLAMABAD :A group of 75 Pakistani pilgrims participated in the 411th annual Urs of Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani (RA) in Sirhind Sharif town of India where they paid their respects and prayed for Pakistan's progress and prosperity.

BISP to expand scope of country's largest nutrition programme

ISLAMABAD: In order to combat malnutrition, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has planned to expand the scope of Benazir Nashonuma initiative which is the country's largest nutrition programme.

PTA receives proposals for spectrum auction consultancy in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD :The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has received five proposals from international consultants to enhance the experience of Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) in Pakistan by providing consultancy services for the upcoming spectrum auction.

Advertisement for General Practice Healthcare Centre, listing various medical services like General Physicians, Radiology, Plastic Surgery, etc.

Encroachments, roadblocks & suspension of mobile signals

TANVEER HUSSAIN



ENCROACHMENT and road blocking of roads is the most serious problem of the country which has made the lives of millions of Pakistanis miserable but unfortunately no government or organization is taking this important issue seriously.

bidden. Once in a journey of Jihad, people narrowed the destinations and blocked the roads. When it was known, the Prophet of Islam sent someone to announce among the people that whoever narrows the destination or blocks the way, there is no jihad for him.

countless problems and accidents for ordinary citizens. Even the drains are not safe from the occupation mafia. Occupying groups are making wealth by building houses, markets and plazas on the canals, but due to the blockage of the water channel of the canals, the water diverts to the nearby communities.

200 countries in the world. Every country has people of different religions, but jamming the entire country in the name of religion is a practice only in Pakistan. Closing roads and shops for religious processions and meetings has become a routine which affects people's daily work and jobs.

Advertisement for General Practice Healthcare Centre, including contact information, location, and a 'Keeping you Healthy' slogan.

Briefs

Deputy PM, US envoy discuss bilateral ties

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Tuesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the meeting, they discussed various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including the avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, according to a foreign ministry's press release. They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.

TTAP, APP agree on increasing contacts

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), a coalition of six opposition parties, and the Awam Pakistan Party (APP) have agreed to increase their contacts.

Sources said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi met Mahmood Khan Achakzai in Islamabad and both leaders exchanged views on national situation. In the meeting, it was agreed to hold dialogue to steer the country out of crisis. Achakzai also invited Abbasi to join the TTAP.

ATC cancels Aliya, Sanam's arrest warrants

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore has canceled the arrest warrants of PTI leaders Aliya Hamza and Sanam Javed in connection with the May 9 arson cases at the Shadman and Mughalpura police stations. During the hearing, which took place in jail, prominent PTI leaders including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Umar Sarfraz Cheema, and Dr Yasmin Rashid were present. Dr Yasmin Rashid attempted to speak, but Judge Khalid Arshad advised her not to argue. The judge mentioned that he was relinquishing his charge and suggested that when the new judge assumes duty, they could discuss matters openly. "We have been in jail for the last 15 months, and four judges have been transferred. They want a Capitol Hill-like decision in the May 9 cases, but the cases aren't even being heard," Umar Sarfraz Cheema told the judge.

Bitter exchange between CJP, Naem Bokhari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and senior counsel Naem Bokhari had an exchange of words during hearing of the case related to commercial activities in Margalla Hills.

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Isa, heard the review petitions against the closure of Monal and other restaurants. During the hearing, Naem Bokhari, the counsel for the restaurants' owners, argued that the decision to close the restaurants was not voluntary and that they were not given a fair chance of hearing. The CJP remarked that the order was passed with the consent of the restaurants' owners. Advocate Bokhari responded that there were only two options before the owners. He noted that the respondents were not properly heard while making the decision. He said the FIA had probed the case and found that the owners of restaurants were not doing any illegal activity. The chief justice questioned the relevance of the FIA investigation.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. - (News on Page-01) DNA

FLSmith CEO eyes further investments in mining sector

Finance Minister discusses investment opportunities with FLSmith's Global CEO



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Mr. Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmith, a

leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries. The meeting was also attended by H.E. Mr. Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark, alongside senior officials from FLSmith and the Finance Division. During the meeting, the Finance Minister

emphasized Pakistan's strategic shift towards an export-led growth model aimed at ensuring sustainable economic development across various sectors. He also highlighted the government's ongoing efforts in the form of comprehensive reforms in the energy and power sectors, privatization of

state-owned enterprises, and restructuring of the tax system and public expenditure. Senator Aurangzeb underscored the government's commitment to facilitating private sector-led growth, with the state focusing on creating a business-friendly environment. "We are determined to pursue our change agenda despite resistance from those favoring the status quo. The private sector must lead the way, and our role is to ensure maximum facilitation," he added. Mr. Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmith, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Government of Pakistan and shared insights into the company's growing presence in the country. He highlighted FLSmith's increased investment in Pakistan's mining sector, which has led to enhanced local value addition, increased taxation contributions, and the creation of employment opportunities for locals. "We have a comprehensive understanding of the mining potential in Pakistan, and we are keen to explore further investment opportunities through local partnerships and collaborations," stated Mr. Keto. The Finance Minister assured the delegation of Pakistan's dedication to providing a favorable and conducive investment climate for foreign investors. The meeting concluded with both parties expressing a strong commitment to strengthening the economic ties between Pakistan and Denmark, particularly in the mining and cement industries, which hold significant potential for growth and development.

12 migrants dead after vessel capsizes in English Channel

At least 12 people died after a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of northern France on Tuesday during an attempt to cross the English Channel, the French authorities said. It was the deadliest episode in the waterway this year as the French and British governments struggle to prevent attempts at the perilous crossing. Gérald Darmanin, France's interior minister, said on the social media platform X that the vessel sank off the coast of Wimereux, in an area of the Pas-de-Calais region where several similar tragedies have occurred this year. Two people were still missing and several others were injured, Mr. Darmanin said. "All government services are mobilized to find the missing and care for the victims," he said. The French maritime authorities said in a statement that dozens of people fell into the sea after their vessel encountered unspecified difficulties on Tuesday morning off the coast of Cap Gris-Nez, which at some points is less than 30 miles from the British coastline. - Agencies

'Capacity payments issue will be settled soon'

Ayaz Sadiq said it is not government to do business but to regulate it

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the issue of capacity payments was under discussion hoping that the issue would be settled soon. While addressing a ceremony of privatization of the Discos, the NA speaker said that the Pakistani parliament in 2015 became the first green parliament in the world. He said that it was not the job of the government to do business but to regulate all such frameworks. He noted that there is currently a global issue with energy prices and highlighted the difference in the dollar rate now compared to when the independent power producers (IPPs) were set up.

Govt employees can no longer use social media without permission

"Govt employees cannot express opinions or facts that affect reputation of govt," reads memorandum

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Establishment Division has barred the government employees from using social media without permission to prevent disclosure of official information and documents. In an office memorandum issued on Tuesday, the government has bound employees to abide by the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1964. According to the memorandum, a government servant will not be able to use any social media application without permission. "Government employees cannot express opinions or facts that affect the reputation of the government," read the memorandum, adding that employees are not allowed to

speak against government policy, decisions, national sovereignty and dignity. It added that public servants cannot express their opinion or rhetoric on social media without permission, while strict action will be taken against them for violation of the instructions.

The memorandum stated that a government servant cannot share official document and information with unrelated persons. It maintained that employees cannot speak to the media in a way that affects relations with other countries. "Civil servants have often been seen debating on social media. The guidelines are not intended to ban the positive use of social media," it read. The memorandum also urged institutions to monitor their social media platforms to remove objectionable content. "Government servants of all services, groups are bound to follow the instructions. Violation may lead to misconduct proceedings against the employees concerned," it maintained, directing federal secretaries, additional secretaries, heads of departments, chief secretaries execute the memorandum.

Russian missile strike kills 41 people and wounds 180

The strike appeared to be one of the deadliest carried out by Russian forces since the war began more than 900 days ago on February 24, 2022. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from Russia

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Two Russian ballistic missiles struck an educational facility and hospital in central Ukraine's Poltava city, killing at least 41 people and injuring another 180, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says. Many people were still trapped under the rubble, Zelenskyy said in a video posted on his Telegram channel on Tuesday. The strike appeared to be one of the deadliest carried out by Russian forces since the war began more than 900 days ago on February 24, 2022. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from Russia. "One of the buildings of the [Military] Institute of Communications was partially destroyed. People found themselves under the rubble. Many were saved," Zelenskyy said. Poltava is located about 350km (200 miles) southeast of the capital, Kyiv. The city is on the main highway and rail route between Kyiv and Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is close to the Russian border. "All necessary services are involved in the rescue operation," he said, adding that he had ordered "a full and

prompt investigation" into the attack. Zelenskyy pledged that Russia would "surely pay" for the attack. "We continue to urge everyone in the world who has the power to stop this terror," he said, calling for a prompt delivery of air defence systems and missiles to the war-torn country. "Long-range strikes that can protect us from Russian terror are needed now, not later. Every day of delay, unfortunately, means more lost lives," he added. Video Duration 3 minutes 58 seconds 3:58 Earlier, Ukraine's Ministry of Defence said Poltava was "experiencing a terrible day". The missiles hit shortly after the air raid alert sounded, when many people were on their way to a bomb shelter, the ministry said in the statement. "Thanks to the coordinated work of rescuers and medics, it was possible to save 25 people, 11 of whom were retrieved from under the rubble. Currently, rescuers continue their work," it said. Poltava Governor Filip Pronin announced three days of mourning starting on Wednesday. "A great tragedy for Poltava region and entire Ukraine," Pronin wrote on Telegram. "The enemy certainly must answer for all [its] crimes against humanity."

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