

Tuesday, September 02, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Putin praises Türkiye President Efforts for Ukraine peace

Detailed News On Page-08

Donald Trump Declares victory Over crimes

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak to diversify financial options, says Fin Minister

Detailed News On Page-01



At the SCO Summit

PM calls for dialogue, peace, connectivity

SCO leaders condemn Jaffar Express and Pahalgam attacks, vow joint fight on terror; Organisation's members say perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of such attacks must be held accountable

CENTRELINE REPORT / DNA

TIANJIN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed promoting regional cooperation, dialogue, and peace under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) framework, urging the Organization's leadership to initiate a comprehensive and structured dialogue to address long-standing disputes in South Asia. Highlighting Pakistan's support for multilateralism, the prime minister said the SCO remained a platform that best represents Pakistan's abiding commitment to regional cooperation and integration. "Pakistan has always believed in the power of multilateralism, dialogue and diplomacy, and shunning unilateralism," he said expressing disappointment over the region's extremely disturbing development in the last few months. Addressing the 25th SCO Heads of States Council Meeting, he emphasized that Pakistan sought normal and stable relations with its neighbors, advocating dialogue over confrontation. On regional security, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including what he termed "state terrorism," while recalling the country's immense sacrifices in the fight against extremism. "We have lost over 90,000 lives and endured economic losses exceeding \$152 billion – a sacrifice unparalleled in history," he said, adding that foreign elements were involved in recent terror incidents in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "We condemn terrorism in all its forms... Those who have long used terrorism for advancing their political interest

Continued on Page 06

Shehbaz, Pezeshkian review Pakistan-Iran cooperation

DNA

TIANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met with President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian wherein the two leaders reviewed the state of bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors and expressed satisfaction with the positive momentum in Pakistan-Iran relations. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of Member States (CHM) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) here, the prime minister reaffirmed

Picture on Back Page

Pakistan's deep commitment to its historic and brotherly ties with neighbouring Iran, underlining the strong foundations of the relationship rooted in shared history, cultural heritage, and faith. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and federal ministers were also present in the meeting. President Pezeshkian appreciated Pakistan's

Continued on Page 06

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF UZBEKISTAN



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Hanif Abbasi Minister for Railways, Salik Hussain Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Ambassador of Uzbekistan Alisher Tukhtaev, heads of missions of the Central Asian states and others cutting cake to celebrate the 34th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

Shehbaz, Ilham discuss bilateral relations

DNA

TIANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) being convened in Tianjin, China from 31 August to 01 September 2025.

Picture on Page 7

The Prime Minister congratulated President Aliyev on the signing of the historic peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, marking a significant step towards lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus. The two leaders reviewed full spectrum of bilateral

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan's core inflation slows down

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decelerated to 3% during August 2025 compared to 4.1% recorded during July 2025, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Monday. According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (August 2024) was recorded at 9.6%. On month-on-month basis, it decreased by 0.6% in August 2025 compared to an increase of 2.9% in the previous month and an increase of 0.4% in August 2024.

Continued on Page 06

Man-made tragedy

Climate change result of our deeds: Kh. Asif

"So I want to state that this is a time for self-accountability, that when you encroach or invite it or allow any person ... and make such [housing] schemes, then nature reacts"

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said in the National Assembly that any climate change in the country is due to "our own actions". He said the recent floods were the third or fourth major "catastrophe" in the country in the last 12 or 15 years. "With that, we have done value addition that we created hotels and houses on waterways, the main route and path of the river has been encroached and presumed that it's a sewer so housing colonies can be made here. "So I want to state that this is a time for self-accountability, that when you encroach



or invite it or allow any person ... and make such [housing] schemes, then nature reacts." He said in all of Pakistan, from the cloudbursts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the rains in Punjab, the natural jurisdiction of rivers was interfered with by humans. Meanwhile, the district administration in Islamabad has been placed on high alert after the capital city received

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pakistan working to diversify financial options

DNA

BEIJING: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said Pakistan is working to diversify its financial options and deepen engagement with leading global and Chinese institutional investors. He was talking to Chairman Hongta Securities Jing Feng in Beijing. During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues for strengthening cooperation in capital markets and enhancing financial sector linkages between Pakistan and China. The Finance Minister said Pakistan is firmly committed to its reform agenda and greatly values its partnership with Chinese investors. Together, he said we can unlock new opportunities that will strengthen our economies and deepen our financial cooperation.

Hamas rejects Gaza takeover by US

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: Hamas denounced on Monday a plan reportedly being considered by US President Donald Trump for the United States to take control of the devastated Gaza Strip and for its population to be relocated. Almost two years since Israel began its campaign in Gaza after Hamas militants' October 7, 2023 attack, swathes of the Palestinian territory have been reduced to rubble and the vast majority of its population has been displaced at least once. The Washington Post reported on Sunday that the White House was considering a plan that would see Gaza – home to roughly two million people – become a trusteeship administered by the United States for at least 10 years.

During training session

Five embrace shahadat in MI-17 helicopter crash

The Pakistan Army's training missions are crucial for maintaining operational readiness for a variety of tasks, from combat support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief: ISPR

DNA

RAWALPINDI: An MI-17 helicopter of the Pakistan Army crashed near Hudor village, approximately 12 kilometers from Thakdas Cantonment, on September 1, 2025, at around 1000 hours. Initial reports confirmed that the aircraft developed a sudden technical fault during a routine training mission, leading to the tragic accident. All five crew members on board embraced martyrdom in the line of duty. They have been identified as Major Atif (Pilot in Command), Major Faisal (Co-pilot), Naib Subedar Maqbool (Flight Engineer), Havildar Jahangir (Crew Chief), and Naik Amir (Crew Chief). According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), rescue and recovery teams immediately reached the crash site, but unfortunately no survivors were found. The Pakistan Army regularly conducts such training flights as part of its operational preparedness. These exercises are

vital not only for maintaining combat efficiency but also for ensuring the army's readiness to respond swiftly to natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and relief operations across the country. The MI-17 fleet, in particular, has played a central role in rescue operations during floods, earthquakes, and other national crises. Military officials emphasized that while training missions involve risks, they remain an indispensable part of preparing personnel to face real-time challenges. The sacrifice of the crew highlights the unwavering dedication and professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces, who continue to serve the nation with courage and commitment. This tragic incident is a stark reminder of the perils faced by military personnel, not only during active combat but also while performing routine duties. The nation mourns the loss of these brave soldiers, whose service and sacrifice will be remembered with honor.

Continued on Page 06

Over 100 perish in deadly Afghanistan earthquake

Pakistan President, PM others extends all-out help to Afghan brothers and sisters

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The death toll from a powerful 6-magnitude earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan has risen to over 1000, the Taliban government spokesman said Monday, with the majority in remote Kunar province. Some 1000 people died and another 2,500 were injured in Kunar, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a press conference in the capital Kabul, adding that the toll of 12 dead and 255 injured in Nangarhar province had not changed. The disaster will further stretch the resources of the South Asian nation already grappling with humanitarian crises, from a sharp drop in aid to a huge pushback of its citizens from neighbouring countries. "All our [...] teams have been mobilised to accelerate assistance, so that comprehensive and full support can be provided," ministry spokesperson Abdul Maten Qanee told Reuters, citing efforts in areas from security to food and health. In Kabul, the capital, health authorities said rescuers were racing to reach remote hamlets dotting an area with a long history of earthquakes and floods.

Continued on Page 06

Ishaq Dar talks to his Afghan counterpart

OIC Secy General also extends condolences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar called Acting Afghan Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to convey condolences on the tragic loss of lives, with thousands injured in last night's earthquake in Afghanistan. He offered prayers for the victims and bereaved families, reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the Afghan people, and assured readiness to extend all possible support. Meanwhile, The Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),

Continued on Page 06

MONAL

NOW SERVING ON MURREE EXPRESSWAY

30 KM on Islamabad - Murree Expressway
Park Ridge Apartment, Lower Topa

+92 325 0000661-62 monalmurree

Sindh ready to handle flows from 0.8m to 1.1m cusecs: CM

Murad Shah recalled that during the 2010 super flood, Guddu Barrage saw a flow of 1.148 million cusecs, while in 2014, 590,000 cusecs at Trimmu Barrage had passed safely. “Recently, 550,000 cusecs passed through Guddu Barrage on August 24 without any alarming situation. Today, we are prepared for up to 910,000 cusecs,” he said

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has warned of a possible super flood in Sindh as India released massive flows into the Chenab River and urged the federal government to formulate a comprehensive climate change policy, stressing that Pakistan must be better prepared to deal with recurring natural disasters. He said this while addressing a press conference at the New Sindh Secretariat, flanked by Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah.

“Four days ago, 1.077 million cusecs of water had reached Qadirabad Barrage,” Shah said, explaining that water from the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers converges at Panjnad before merging into the Indus at Kot Mithan.

“Currently, around 250,000 cusecs from Ravi, 350,000 cusecs from Sutlej, and 200,000 cusecs from the Indus are combining with Chenab flows, and all this water eventually drains into the sea through the Indus.”

The NDMA has forecast 0.8 million to 1.1 million cusecs at Guddu Barrage around September 5, he revealed, warning that “anything above 900,000 cusecs is declared a super flood.”

The Chief Minister Murad Shah assured that Sindh had made full preparations to face the looming

challenge. “Our foremost responsibility is to protect human lives, livestock, and our barrages,” he said. He added that his government has secured the embankments. “After the 2010 floods, we raised them significantly, by around six feet,” he said.

Murad Shah recalled that during the 2010 super flood, Guddu Barrage saw a flow of 1.148 million cusecs, while in 2014, 590,000 cusecs at Trimmu Barrage had passed safely. “Recently, 550,000 cusecs passed through Guddu Barrage on August 24 without any alarming situation. Today, we are prepared for up to 910,000 cusecs,” he said.

The CM said that every quarter mile of embankments now has a watch camp (landi) with 16 staff members monitoring round-the-clock and trained to respond immediately. Sensitive points have been fortified with machinery and other arrangements. Special focus has also been placed on the KK Bund to ensure its protection. “All commissioners, deputy commissioners, and the PDMA have been directed to stay fully prepared. Villagers and livestock owners have been briefed, while the Health Department has been placed on high alert,” Mr Shah said, adding that he himself, along with the Chief Secretary and provincial ministers, was monitoring the situation. During the Question & Answers, Murad Shah Shah turned to the broader issue of climate change, calling it an undeniable reality. “We must acknowledge

that the impacts of climate change are extremely dangerous,” he stressed. “At the moment, my focus is on ensuring Sindh passes the next 10 to 15 days safely. But nationally, we must develop a comprehensive policy to tackle climate change.”

The CM recalled that in the 2022 floods, Sindh and Balochistan were the worst hit, but this time, Punjab had been most severely affected. “Our brothers and sisters in Punjab are suffering the most. People of Sindh stand shoulder to shoulder with them. Our prayers and assistance are with Punjab,” he said.

Explaining the dynamics of the current flooding, Shah clarified that the high flows in Punjab were caused by the Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers, and “this water cannot be diverted to Kalabagh.” The CM also highlighted the institutional legacy of disaster management, recalling that after the 1973 and 1976 floods, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto established the Federal Flood Commission. “Today, we have the NDMA at the federal level and the PDMA at the provincial level, both working effectively to deal with natural disasters,” he added.

For field monitoring, Chief Minister Murad Shah announced that provincial Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani has been assigned to oversee the Left Bank of the Indus, while Riaz Shah Shirazi will supervise the Right Bank downstream of Kotri. “The Sindh government is prepared to handle flows ranging from 0.8 million to 1.1 million cusecs. Every precautionary step is being taken,” the Chief Minister concluded.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Yusuf Raza Gilani listening to the problems of flood affectees at a relief camp

KP CM vows rapid rehabilitation after floods

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stated that recent rains severely affected several districts, with Buner, Shangla, Swabi, and Swat among the worst hit.

Speaking to journalists, he said provincial institutions were mobilized and rescue operations were completed within 24 hours. He confirmed 490 people lost their lives in the floods. Floodwaters up to 14 feet swept through, demolishing many houses.

He stated that heirs of the deceased have each received Rs. 2 million in compensation. Owners of completely destroyed houses are being given Rs. 1 million. Compensation for the injured is ongoing, but only 50% have been paid so far due to a shortage of checkbooks.

Chief Minister said restoration of infrastructure is underway and that assistance work is progressing at a rapid pace. He noted that the damage would have been less severe if dams had been built previously, adding that work on new dams has now begun. He admitted that Rs. 1 million is not enough to fully rebuild a house but is meant as immediate assistance to help victims return to normal life.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property in the earthquake that struck several parts of Afghanistan late Sunday evening.—APP

Gilani assures full support to flood victims

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday visited flood-affected areas of Multan, including Qasim Bela, Basti Langrial, and the suburban localities of Muzaffarabad, where he assured victims that they would not be left alone in this difficult time. During the visit, he reviewed the availability of medicines and essential facilities at local relief camps. He was accompanied by MNA Syed Ali Qasim Gilani, Syed Ahmed Mujtaba Gilani, political leader Malik Manzoor Domra, Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu, City Police Officer Dogar, and other senior district officials.

Gilani interacted with families residing in tent villages at Qasim Bela and Basti Langrial, inquiring about their well-being and listening to their concerns. He appealed to residents of Muzaffarabad's suburban areas to fully cooperate with the administration in ongoing evacuation efforts to ensure the safety of their children and livestock. Speaking to the media, the Senate Chairman noted that the floods had caused significant destruction across Pakistan, especially in Punjab. He acknowledged the emotional difficulty of leaving one's home but emphasized that evacuation was necessary to protect lives.

“National solidarity demands that we collectively support flood victims in this hour of trial,” he stated.

Gilani called on philanthropists to provide maximum support to displaced families to help uplift their morale during these challenging times. He also commended the media for its constructive and informative role in raising awareness about safety protocols and relief measures. The Senate Chairman praised the efforts of the local administration in effectively managing evacuation and relief operations in the riverine areas of Multan.—APP

Drone technology used in flood relief operations

DNA

LAHORE: On the special instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, drone technology has been deployed for the first time in Pakistan's history to identify and rescue flood victims in the province.

Thermal imaging drone cameras are being used to conduct surveillance in flood-hit areas, enabling rescue teams to trace stranded people and livestock in otherwise inaccessible locations. In Jhang, drones helped detect five people and several animals trapped near Semi-Pul Bypass on Sargodha Road. Rescue teams immediately reached the site, safely evacuating and shifting them to secure places. Drone surveillance has also been initiated

in river belt areas of Chishtian and Bahawalnagar to locate people stranded in floodwaters. It is worth-mentioning that by using technology, it has become possible to easily identify people and livestock submerged in floodwater. Moreover, surveillance of rescue boats is also underway to ensure success of rescue operations. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the conferment of the highest civil award to Assistant Commissioner Pattoki, Furqan Ahmed Khan, who passed away due to cardiac arrest while on flood relief duty. The CM also announced a financial grant of Rs. 10 million for his family.

Furqan Ahmed Khan, despite being a cancer patient, remained on continuous flood relief duty for four days. He worked tirelessly to provide

food, medicines, and essential facilities to the flood-affected people of Pattoki until his last moments.

Paying tribute, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif described him as a true hero who sacrificed his life while serving humanity in the most difficult circumstances. She said his unwavering sense of duty and dedication will always be remembered with respect and gratitude. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday visited a field hospital near the Jhang flood relief camp to review medical and relief arrangements for flood-affected residents.

During the visit, she inquired from patients and their families about the availability of medicines and treatment facilities and expressed satisfaction over the services being provided.

Thousand primary schools for flood affectees relief camps

LARKANA: In response to the emergency flood situation in Sindh, the Education Department Larkana on Monday has declared more than one thousand government boys' and girls' primary schools, both pacca and katcha, across all four talukas of the district as relief camps to relocate affected people from katcha to pacca areas.

The process of sheltering the flood victims has begun. The district administration will provide necessary facilities, including food, to the flood victims in the relief camps.

In this regard, District Education Officer (Primary) Anis-ur-Rehman Jalbani, has sent the details of the declared schools to the Taluka Education Officers (TEOs) of all four including Larkana, Ratodero, Bakrani, and Dokri. Consequently, over one thousand government boys' and girls' schools in the four talukas have been declared relief camps to shelter the flood victims. This includes 307 schools in Larkana taluka, 308 in Ratodero taluka, 214 in Bakrani taluka, 146 in Dokri taluka, and over 32 katcha schools in the district.

The 3,290 classrooms in these notified schools have the capacity to shelter over 32,900 flood victims. The schools include over 70 schools from Larkana city and schools from various Union Councils (UC) Larkana Tehsil.—APP

New polio case reported in Tank district

PESHAWAR: The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed a new polio case from District Tank in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a press release issued by Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) KP, the latest polio case involves a 20-month-old girl from Union Council Ping A, District Tank.

This is the 14th Polio case from Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this year. With this detection, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 has reached 24 – including 16 from Khyber. In all a total of 16 cases of polio infection have been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including four from Tank, three each from Bannu, Lakki Marwat and North Waziristan, one each from Torghar, D.I.Khan and Kohistan Lower.—APP

Voter awareness session held

QUETTA: An important voter awareness session was held by the Provincial Election Commissioner at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU), Quetta, on Monday. On this occasion, Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Ali Asghar Sial, thanked the university administration for organizing this session to make the students aware of the importance of elections. He said that the participation of women in the electoral process is very important and universities could play a key role in this process. Ali Asghar Sial said that the active participation of youth, especially female students, could not only make the electoral process effective but also reduce the gap in the registration of women voters. He further said that if women register their votes and participate fully in the elections, it is possible to significantly increase the voter turnout. Addressing the participants, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Dr Rubina Mushtaq, said that free, fair and transparent elections are the foundation of democracy. She urged the young generation to actively participate in the electoral process and become ambassadors of democracy. She said

that the female students should not only register themselves to vote but also make the people around them aware of this national duty so that a strong and conscious society could be formed. This voter awareness session was organized in collaboration with Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University and the Provincial Election Commission of Balochistan, with the aim of making the youth and women aware of the importance of voting and including them in the national mainstream. On this occasion, Director of Elections, Mr Abdullah, Director of Administration, Naeem Ahmed, and Deputy Director of Elections, Ms. Alia Nazar, also addressed the female students. They shed detailed light on the constitutional role of the Election Commission of Pakistan and the electoral system. The speakers also informed the female students about the steps of voter registration, registration in the electoral rolls, and the responsibilities of the Election Commission for transparent elections. At the end of the ceremony, Provincial Election Commissioner Ali Asghar Sial and Vice Chancellor Dr Rubina Mushtaq also presented commemorative shields to each other.—APP

School nutrition program launched in 40 schools

LAHORE: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) in collaboration with Civil Services Academy has launched Phase-2 of School Nutrition Program during an inaugural ceremony held at Walton, Lahore on Monday. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Salma Butt, Director General PFA Muhammad Asim Javaid, and DG Civil Services Farha Aziz Khawaja inaugurated the program. Addressing the ceremony, the participants said that screening of children in 40 primary schools will be conducted with pre and post evaluations while students will be categorized as A, B, C or D based on health status. Under the program healthy lunch boxes will be distributed free of cost among school children. A target of making four million students “Food Champions” has been set while 135 probationary civil service officers are nominated as ambassadors for phase-2. Special Assistant to the CM Salma Butt said that Pakistan is among the ten countries most affected by climate change and poverty is worsening malnutrition among children, impacting their education and health. She said that despite limited resources, Phase 1 of the program was successfully executed and the launch of Phase 2 is another landmark achievement. She added that during recent floods, more than 650,000 people were recovered and 450,000 livestock saved while markets in Lahore, Multan and Bahawalpur were impacted. She said that daily vegetable monitoring is being carried out by PFA to ensure stability in supply and quality. PFA DG Muhammad Asim Javaid said that 40 percent of children in Punjab suffer from stunting, 28 percent from wasting and 30 percent are under height for their age. He said that PFA has carried out historic enforcement operations across the province in which food adulterators were arrested red handed. PFA also discarded 108,000 litres of fake milk, seized six vehicles and confiscated machinery involved in adulteration. DG Civil Services Academy Farhan Aziz Khawaja said that one of the officers sacrificed his life while on flood duty, and their service to the public is a matter of pride.—DNA

HC of Kenya visited PTA office

DNA

KARACHI: Lieutenant General (Retired) Peter Mbogo Nauru, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya and former Chief of Army of Kenya, along with Mr. Bonface Njoroge Njuguna, Commercial Attaché, Republic of Kenya, and Mr. Muhammad Hanif Janoo, Honorary Consul of Republic of Kenya, visited the office of Pakistan Tanners Association (Southern Zone). They were warmly received by Mr. Hamid Zahur, Chairman PTA – Central, and Dr. Danish Aman, Chairman PTA (S.Z.). During the meeting, matters relating to enhancing bilateral trade in the leather sector and the promotion of natural products were thoroughly discussed. On this occasion, Mr. Hamid Zahur and Dr. Danish Aman presented the crest of Pakistan Tanners Association to His Excellency as a token of goodwill. Subsequently, His Excellency visited a leather garment manufacturing unit, where he expressed great interest and appreciation upon witnessing the detailed processes involved in producing a finished leather garment.



MOST EXPERIENCED
MANUFACTURERS &
EXPORTERS OF
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS
IN
PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAEKWONDO

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
UNIFORMS AND
COLOURED BELTS

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAEKWONDO

ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51540, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3259000 / 3255788
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

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

Airlines

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

National Culture Policy to revive heritage, project soft image

“The National Culture Policy will allow Pakistan to tell its real story—of history, creativity, and a civilization rooted in peace,” the minister concluded

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will soon launch a National Culture Policy aimed at reviving its heritage, strengthening the creative sector, and projecting a positive image abroad. This was stated by the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi in an interview with APP. He said the policy has been framed through consultation with provinces, writers, artists, and cultural experts, and will provide institutional backing to neglected cultural and literary communities. “For too long, culture has been ignored. This policy is a national com-

mitment to our identity and creativity,” Khichi remarked. The minister emphasized that the initiative is designed to counter negative narratives and highlight Pakistan’s civilizational legacy, including sites such as Mehrgarh, Harappa, Mohenjodaro, and Taxila. Outlining international engagement, Khichi said Pakistan has cultural cooperation agreements with 86 countries and is working to expand that number to 125. Participation in this year’s Lok Mela is also expected to double, with 12 foreign countries setting up pavilions. To boost heritage

tourism, the government is establishing a Buddhist Cultural and Information Center at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, and upgrading facilities at key sites including Shah Allah Ditta Caves. Provinces have also been asked to improve infrastructure at Buddhist sites to facilitate international visitors. Khichi further disclosed that Pakistan has submitted four nominations to UNESCO for the World Heritage List, the first since 1998. Parallel efforts are underway to digitize the National Library, Pakistan Academy of Letters, and archaeological records to preserve herit-

age and expand global access. He added that Pakistan’s first degree-awarding institution in the arts will be launched by year-end to support students seeking international recognition. Meanwhile, PNCA has begun offering exhibition space to young artists at minimal cost, while Lok Virsa has started art classes for wider public participation. “The National Culture Policy will allow Pakistan to tell its real story—of history, creativity, and a civilization rooted in peace,” the minister concluded.

ISLAMABAD: Workers relocate the iconic flagpole at H-8 sector of Islamabad, where the Marka-e-Haq Monument will be built to commemorate Pakistan’s historic victory against India.

National Library facilitates reading lovers thru modern digitization

ISLAMABAD :The National Library of Pakistan, which is among the prominent libraries of the capital, has transformed with time and facilitated reading lovers through modern digitization in recent years. Established in 1951, the library serves as the topmost knowledge resource centre of the nation as well as the fountainhead of library development in the country. The library strives to develop a significant collection of human knowledge, a comprehensive collection of national literary heritage, and excellent library services for the promotion of a knowledge-based society in Pakistan. In an exclusive interview with APP, Director General of the National Library of Pakistan, Yasir Arfat, said that the tender regarding the digitization of the library’s newspaper and rare books collection was started in December 2018 through the PSDP project. Proper work on the digitization process began in 2019 and project was completed in 2021. The total

budget allocated for this project was over 42 million rupees. “We are using DSpace software to store and preserve the data of books and old newspapers. We have digitized newspapers from 1968 to 2015 and also digitized 11000 rare books and 580 manuscripts. We have established a separate Digitization Section where we have deployed Digitization experts to monitor and maintain the functioning of this software. We have also deputed staff to guide researchers/visitors on how to use this software to access their desired data,” he told. “National Library of Pakistan plans to establish a smart digital library to modernize its services and enhance public access to knowledge resources. The Chinese Embassy has also expressed its interest in setting up a state-of-the-art, digitally equipped corner within the Library. This collaborative effort aims to promote technological advancement, cultural exchange, and stronger bilateral ties between Pa-

kistan and China,” he explained. He further shared that they would soon launch a fellowship programme for researchers and writers to engage them in data and research activities, and the DSpace software will be helpful for them in acquiring the data. Discussing the technical challenges, he noted that the library currently owns a book scanner, but it is outdated and does not meet current digitization standards. To address this, the library has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), which is being equipped with a specialized Newspaper scanner. “This scanner will help the library to scan, store, and preserve valuable data for archiving newspapers,” he added. Talking to APP, Rahat, M.Phil student and frequent visitor, said, “I have been visiting the library since 2018 for book references for my thesis. Collecting data from books was crucial at the time.”DNA

Over 200-year-old Jamia Masjid Rajgan discovered

ISLAMABAD:Construction workers uncovered the remains of over 200-year-old Jamia Masjid Rajgan during development work in the Paryan area of Islamabad, where archaeologists say the Mughal-style mosque once served as a central place of worship for a thriving village community. The discovery was made during development work at Lotus Park, where bulldozers and diggers were preparing the ground for new recreational facilities. What first appeared to be uneven foundations soon revealed itself as the ancient walls and arched niches of a mosque lost to time. Work was halted, and officials from the Department of Archaeology were called in to examine the site. Experts believe the mosque dates back to the early 19th century, with its design bearing a strong resemblance to Mughal-era architecture. The remains include high arched doorways, prayer niches, and layers of handmade brickwork – all pointing to the mosque’s historic and cultural value. “This was not just a small village mosque,” said Anjum Dara ,anarchaeologist involved in the survey. “Its scale and craftsmanship suggest it once served as the spiritual center of a thriving settlement.” The mosque’s surroundings – dense with trees and untouched greenery – add to its mystique. Even in ruin, the site carries a spiritual silence, a reminder of prayers once offered here by villagers long gone. For locals, the rediscovery has stirred both pride and concern. Many fear that without urgent action, the fragile structure could once again vanish – this time to modern development. “We grew up hearing stories of an old mosque hidden somewhere in the hills, but we never thought it would come to light like this,” said Khalid Mehmood, a resident of Rajgan.—DNA

PCI, Tsinghua varsity organize Pak-China Green Development Dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in collaboration with the School of Environment at Tsinghua University organized a Pakistan-China Green Development Dialogue on the sidelines of the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif to China. During the Dialogue, PCI launched a policy paper titled “From Policy to Practice: Operationalizing Green Special Economic Zones under CPEC via China’s Eco-Industrial Parks Lessons”. The dialogue gathered policymakers, researchers, and industry experts to set out a practical roadmap for Green SEZs in Pakistan. The event was attended by Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Kharaal, Minister of State for Climate Change of Pakistan; Professor Tian Jinping of the School of Environment, Tsinghua University; Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of PCI; XU Tianqi, Director of Area Studies at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies (RDCY), Renmin

University; Dr. Erfa Iqbal, Additional Secretary and EDG-II at the Board of Investment (BOI); Professor Bi Kejia, Associate Professor at the School of Business, Xi’an International Studies University; and Muhammad Umar Farooq, Senior Researcher at PCI, received a press release here from China on Monday. The paper was authored by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Muhammad Umar Farooq, and Professor Tian Jinping. It adapts lessons from China’s eco-industrial parks (EIPs) for CPEC SEZs, with a focus on standards, shared infrastructure, finance, operations, and data. In his welcome remarks, Professor Tian Jinping said that today is about turning ideas into site-level action in Pakistan’s SEZs. China’s eco-industrial parks worked because we set clear standards, built shared utilities, and backed decisions with verified data. “When parks share treatment plants, steam, and heat-recovery systems, costs fall and compli-

ance improves. Transparent meters and simple dashboards help managers spot waste and match by-products across firms. Capacity building matters as much as hardware; operators must know how to run these systems day to day. If Pakistan pilots, measures, and then scales, results will follow.” In his opening remarks, Mustafa Hyder Sayed said that our focus is practical implementation, not theory. Green SEZs will succeed when cleaner production lowers operating costs for firms. That means bankable shared utilities, simple rules for SME participation, and incentives tied to verified performance. The paper lays out how zone authorities can standardize contracts, publish KPIs, and make data-sharing routine. We also emphasize coordination across ministries so approvals and support instruments move together. This is a realistic roadmap for pilots in 2025 that can scale within the CPEC framework.—APP

BISP,BBSHRRDB join hands to train 3,000 beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Human Resource Research and Development Board (BBSHRRDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday at BISP Headquarters under the Benazir Hunarmand Programme. Under the agreement, BBSHRRDB will initially train 3,000 BISP beneficiaries in various trades, with a strong focus on employability and sustainable livelihoods. The ceremony was attended by Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, and Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad. The MoU was signed by Ms. Romna Gul, Director General (CI) BISP, and Mr. Munawar Ali Mithani, Secretary Board, BBSHRRDB. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of the partnership and recalled the words of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto: “Skill is your asset.” Senator Rubina Khalid stated that while we are making lives easier, the greater need is to work on improving lives. Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad, termed the MoU a milestone for empowering BISP beneficiaries and stressed that skill training and employment opportunities are vital for securing sustainable livelihoods and contributing to Pakistan’s socio-economic development. Mr. Munawar Ali Mithani, Secretary Board, BBSHRRDB, reaffirmed the Board’s commitment to equipping BISP beneficiaries with market-driven skills, ensuring they are better prepared for meaningful employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.—APP

HEC issues active MS & PhD programmes

ISLAMABAD :Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan published updated list of active MS/MPhil (Level 7) and PhD (Level 8) programmes after conducting nationwide training sessions on Pakistan Qualification Register (PQR), aiming to improve the accuracy and completeness of qualifications data that were used for attestation of degrees and other purposes. Training sessions were attended by the focal persons of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country, said a press release on Monday. HEC emphasised the importance of PQR as a centralised, authentic database of recognised degree programmes that were aligned with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The HEIs were advised to ensure complete details of each programme in PQR, followed by approvals from the statutory bodies for graduate programmes. The training reinforced the role of PQR focal persons as the key liaison between HEC and universities/HEIs for resolving verification challenges and assuring transparent, accurate details about each programme. Following the training activities, the HEIs have verified their PQR entries and HEC has published updated lists on its website. These lists are publicly accessible and intended to guide prospective students in making informed choices. Prospective applicants were strongly advised to consult the updated PQR list and the NOC issued list before applying for admission to confirm that their selected programme was active and recognised by HEC, otherwise admission to unlisted programmes resulted in non-attestation of the degree. PQR is an official registry of HEC-recognised academic programmes offered by Pakistani higher education institutions (HEIs). It maps programmes to NQF levels, provides current status (active/suspended/closed) and underpins data-driven decisions by students, universities, employers and other regulators. It safeguards students from taking admission in unapproved programmes by sharing details of each currently active degree.—APP

SCO agri-tech partnerships helping Pakistani firms

SLAMABAD: SCO agri-tech partnerships is helping Pakistani firms to enhance their annual growth. A major B2B forum is about to take place in Beijing alongside the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) Summit, and Abdul Ghaffar Shar is helping Pakistani firms secure a spot. For him, it’s more than just another business trip—it’s the continuation of a journey that began years ago in China’s agricultural heartland. Shar earned his Ph.D. at Northwest A&F University in Shaanxi Province, where he first encountered advanced seed varieties and state-of-the-art irrigation systems. Now back in Pakistan, he runs a company that connects local farmers with Chinese markets while introducing agricultural technologies tailored to Pakistani soil. “Salt-resistant, high-yield varieties of maize and wheat can transform our villages,” he said. “They mean better harvests, more secure incomes, and a chance for farmers to break cycles of poverty.” Shar’s story is one thread in a wider tapestry of cooperation taking root under the SCO, a ten-nation bloc that includes China, Russia, Pakistan, India, and four Central Asian states. Extending beyond collaboration in energy and defense, agriculture across the SCO is proving to be one of the most practical and transformative areas of collaboration. For Pakistan, the partnership has already yielded tangible results. At the SCO Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training Base in Yangling, Shaanxi Province, more than 120 agricultural technicians and 140 postgraduate students have received specialized training. Last year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed an agreement with China to train 1,000 Pakistani experts in modern farming techniques. The first group of 292 returned this July after completing three months of hands-on training in livestock genomics, seed production, irrigation systems, and disease prevention. All 1,000 are expected to complete their training by the end of this year. The push extends far beyond Pakistan. In Uzbekistan, sprawling demonstration farms are testing over 40 crop varieties—from cotton and rapeseed to apples, figs, and high-oleic peanuts. Chinese experts rotate in to teach local farmers how to enrich soil, cut pesticide use through biological controls, and deploy solar-powered irrigation systems. In July, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev approved the country’s first presidentially backed international agricultural park in Tashkent. Developed in partnership with Yangling, the park is set to become a hub for smart farming, efficient irrigation, and agri-processing. Across the border in Kazakhstan, Shaanxi-based Aiju Grain and Oil Industrial Group has rolled out contract farming on a massive scale. Farmers are provided with improved seeds and technical guidance, while the company guarantees purchase of their harvests. Today, the model covers 100,000 hectares, helping stabilize incomes and strengthen food supply chains. The company has also invested heavily in infrastructure: a one-million-ton grain hub in northern Kazakhstan, a 100,000-ton transit station on the Xinjiang border, and a processing-and-sales network in Xi’an. Together, these projects have created nearly 1,000 jobs and boosted Kazakhstan’s grain trade with China.—DNA

Mustafa launches anti-polio campaign

KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Monday launched a National Anti-Polio Campaign at Sohrab Goth, to protect millions of children under the age of five from the virus. While addressing the anti-polio launching ceremony, he underscored that the polio vaccine is safe, effective, and vital for saving the lives of children. He further said that misconceptions portraying it as harmful or religiously prohibited were inaccurate. The Minister emphasized that polio workers have been directed to request cooperation respectfully, while law enforcement agencies will be present only for the security of vaccination teams. The Minister pointed out that coercion strengthens negative perceptions and undermines the campaign. Kamal cautioned that refusals remained a pressing challenge. He urged the members of the National and Provincial Assemblies to engage with communities patiently and constructively. He emphasized that better communication, respectful dialogue, and trust-building are essential, and that the campaign must rely on persuasion rather than pressure. It was also stated that significant development work had been carried out in Sohrab Goth and along the Super Highway to resolve long-standing grievances of citizens. Thousands of people who had suffered previously are now benefiting from improved infrastructure, while hospitals and graveyards have also been established to meet essential community needs.—APP

Qalam Qafila Pakistan to host grand Naat gathering

ISLAMABAD: In a heartfelt celebration of the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), Qalam Qafila Pakistan, in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Letters is organizing a grand Naatia Mushaira on Tuesday, 2nd September. The event will be held at the Sheikh Ayaz Conference Hall, Pakistan Academy of Letters, Pitras Bukhari Road, Islamabad According to official sources, the Mushaira is part of the annual Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) festivities and will feature celebrated poets and distinguished Naat reciters from across the country as guests of honor. The gathering aims to rekindle the spiritual and literary love for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through heartfelt poetry and praise. The event will be graced by Maulana Mufti Muhammad Tahir, a prominent religious scholar and Khatib-ul-Asr (orator of the age), who will deliver a short address on the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).—APP

Briefs

Polio eradication drive begins in Sindh

ISLAMABAD: A seven-day polio eradication campaign begins on Monday in 25 districts of Sindh, including Karachi. According to a private news channel and the Sindh Health Department, over nine million children will be vaccinated during the drive. More than 70,000 frontline workers will take part, while over 21,000 police personnel have been deployed to ensure the security of vaccination teams. So far this year, 23 polio cases have been reported across the country, including six from Sindh. These include two from Badin and one each from Thatta, Larkana, Qambar and Umerkot.—APP

YECO programme now open for applications

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) has announced a call for applications for the Youth Ecopreneur Programme (YECO), a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering young environmental entrepreneurs to lead the green transition through sustainable business solutions and land restoration. The program seeks to equip young individuals with the skills and expertise to emerge as environmental leaders, driving Pakistan's sustainable development agenda and fostering a greener future for generations to come. As per official sources, the application deadline is set for September 14, 2025, with eligibility restricted to individuals aged 35 or below who are actively engaged in green businesses or eco-friendly ventures.

This innovative program is designed to support young individuals with innovative ideas and passion for environmental sustainability. Interested applicants can register on the YECO website or the Digital Youth Hu.

The registration process is straightforward, and applicants can submit their proposals online. The program's focus on sustainable business solutions and land restoration aligns with the government's commitment to environmental sustainability. By providing a platform for young eco-entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas and innovations, the program aims to create a new generation of environmental leaders. Young individuals interested in environmental sustainability and entrepreneurship are encouraged to apply for the program.

With the deadline fast approaching, aspiring eco-entrepreneurs should register quickly to take advantage of this golden opportunity.—APP



ISLAMABAD: An attractive view of clouds hovering over the sky of Federal Capital.

AEO, Qatar Airways announce collaboration

Study abroad dreams are taking flight with the world's best airline!

DNA

ISLAMABAD: AEO Pakistan has partnered with Qatar Airways — recently named the World's Best Airline for 2025 by Skytrax for a record ninth time — to offer students attending the AEO Pakistan Study Abroad Expo 2025 a chance to win two (02) return tickets to Australia through a special lucky draw. This collaboration reflects AEO Pakistan's commitment to delivering excellence in student services by partnering with globally recognised leaders. With Qatar Airways—named the World's Best Airline—supporting this year's expo, students can expect a world-class experience that combines access to top international universities with premium travel opportunities, connecting aspiring students with top-ranked international universities and

expert guidance. The AEO Pakistan Study Abroad Expo 2025 will be held across 11 leading cities of Pakistan in September, featuring 20+ international universities, experienced education counsellors, IELTS specialists, and career advisors — providing a complete one-stop platform to explore study opportunities abroad. Eligibility for the lucky draw is to attend the AEO Pakistan Education Expo, sign up at the Qatar Airways Student Club counter and participate in the lucky draw. The lucky draw will be conducted at the close of the Expo series, with winners announced on the official social media channels of AEO Pakistan and contacted directly. The AEO Pakistan Study Abroad Expo 2025 is free to attend for students and parents. The first event will be held on 8th September at PC Hotel, Lahore, followed by 11th September at Serena, Islamabad, and 13th Septem-

ber at Marriott, Karachi. For the full Expo schedule, participating universities, and lucky draw terms & conditions, visit www.aeo.com.pk. A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways won the 'World's Best Airline' for an unprecedented ninth time at the 2025 World Airline Awards, managed by the international air transport rating organisation, Skytrax. Qatar Airways was previously named the World's Best Airline in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2024. The airline continues to be synonymous with excellence, and has yet again received recognition for 'World's Best Business Class', and 'World's Best Business Class Airline Lounge'. As the leading connector in the region, Qatar Airways has also been lauded with the 'Best Airline in the Middle East' title for the 13 time.

Qatar Airways currently flies to over

170 destinations worldwide, connecting through its Doha hub, Hamad International Airport, the 'Best Airport in the Middle East' for 11 consecutive years, as well as 'World's Best Airport Shopping' for the third year in a row, as voted by Skytrax. Hamad International Airport has previously been named the 'World's Best Airport' by Skytrax in 2021, 2022, and 2024. Qatar Airways was the first Airline in the Middle East to be certified to the highest level of IATA's Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) programme, based on recognised environmental management system principles (such as ISO 14001). As an inaugural signatory to the Buckingham Palace Declaration in March 2016, Qatar Airways became the first airline globally to be certified to the industry standard for the prevention of illegal wildlife trafficking in aviation.

Crackdown launched on dengue SOP violations: 9 held

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has launched a strict operation against violations of dengue prevention rules and sealed 10 buildings while arrested nine individuals in the Nilore area of the Federal Capital for allowing mosquitoes larvae to breed on their premises. According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) here, this action coincided with a high-level meeting to review the city's strategy against the disease. He said that the district administration was intensifying its campaign against dengue fever. Authorities were taking direct action against property owners and residents who breach standard operating procedures designed to prevent the spread of the virus. In a specific operation in the Nilore area, the Assistant Commissioner took decisive measures. After inspections revealed mosquito larvae breeding on the premises, officials

moved to seal ten buildings. This legal action prevents access to the properties until the owners comply with health regulations. Additionally, nine people were arrested in connection with These violations signal a zero-tolerance approach. Meanwhile, in this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon chaired a meeting to review the anti-dengue campaign. The meeting included all Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates, and relevant officials. Its primary purpose was to assess the progress of the ongoing fight against dengue. The discussion focused on the effectiveness of current actions and planning for future steps. A central directive from the meeting was the urgent need to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Officials were instructed to ramp up inspection efforts. The goal is to find stagnant water sources where dengue-carrying mosquitoes can lay eggs.—DNA

Nutritionist urges public to choose food over excessive medicines

ISLAMABAD: Nutritionist Dr. Ayesha on Monday stressed the need to rely on a healthy diet rather than excessive use of medicines for maintaining good health for citizens. Talking to a private news channel, she said that while essential medicines for conditions like diabetes and blood pressure are necessary, they must always be taken with proper medical guidance, as timing before or after meals can affect their impact.—APP

ITP schedule of facilitation vans for citizens' doorstep services

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP), under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Hamza, have unveiled the schedule of facilitation vans to operate from September 1 to September 6, 2025, aimed at delivering driving license, traffic information, and related services at the citizens' doorsteps. An ITP official told APP on Monday that the facilitation vans will cover different areas of the federal capital during the six-day schedule, working between 08:30 am and 04:30 pm daily, except Saturday when the service will conclude at 03:00 pm. According to the schedule, van GAG-709 will be stationed at DHA Phase-II Gate No. 4 on September 1, at E-9 PAF Complex on September 2, Media Town Press Club on September 3, F-10 Markaz near Bolan Gate on September 4, B-17 Multi Garden Office on September 5, and at G-11 near Askari Bank on September 6. Similarly, van GAC-656 will provide services at R-Block Pak Secretariat on September 1, G-9 Awami Trade Center on September 2, I-10 Markaz near D-Watson on September 3, D-12 Markaz on September 4, District Administration Office G-11 on September 5, and Bhara Kahu Smli Dam Road on September 6.—APP

Ali Geelani a symbol of resistance for Kashmiris: PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paying tribute to founder of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Geelani, said that his life was an enduring symbol of resistance for the Kashmiri people against oppression. The prime minister, who is in China to attend the SCO summit, in his message on the fourth anniversary of Syed Ali Geelani, said that the Kashmiri leader dedicated his life to the struggle for Kashmir's freedom and played a pivotal role in the Kashmiri people's struggle for the cause. He said that through his political acumen and prudent leadership, Syed Ali Geelani always raised the voice of Kashmir and its people to make it heard across the world. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the Ali Geelani's unwavering love for Pakistan was a source of pride and a symbol of spiritual and heartfelt connection with the Kashmiri people. He said that Geelani's slogan "We are Pakistani - Pakistan is ours" continued to resonate among the Kashmiris and stayed strong in the minds of their oppressors. Ali Geelani's political teachings are a legacy of awareness and struggle for the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir, he added.

Cholera outbreaks pose ongoing threat to Pakistan after crises

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have warned that Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to cholera outbreaks, particularly in the wake of natural disasters such as recent floods and during humanitarian crises. Child Specialist Dr Matuallah, speaking to APP, said that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are maintaining close surveillance of waterborne diseases, including acute diarrhea and cholera, while delivering medical supplies to high-risk communities. Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingesting contaminated food or water. It can kill within hours if left untreated. Experts note that the disease spreads rapidly in areas where water and sanitation systems have been damaged a common occurrence during floods, earthquakes, and conflicts. "Pakistan, with its history of devastating floods and displacement crises, remains particularly exposed," Dr Matuallah cautioned. "After a disaster, when people are forced into overcrowded camps with limited access to clean water, the risk of cholera spreading multiplies," a WHO official explained. "The disease does not just threaten lives; it also overwhelms already fragile health systems."—APP

Will Trump ever be in Islamabad?

ATIF ALI



A visit from the man in charge, whose office is in Washington, D.C.—the most powerful office in today's global affairs—is highly sought after by all states, especially developing nations like Pakistan. That man in power at the White House is currently Mr. Donald Trump, the President of the United States. In recent months, experts have observed a notable shift in U.S. foreign relations with Pakistan. Unsurprisingly, this transition has raised a major question: Will U.S. President Donald Trump visit Pakistan? Although the White House has not officially announced a visit, the growing engagement between the two nations suggests that such a possibility cannot be ruled out. The debate intensified recently after President Trump repeatedly

praised Pakistan's role in facilitating a ceasefire with India. Notable developments include the unprecedented visit of Pakistan's Army Chief to the United States, where he attended a lunch hosted by President Trump—the first time a Pakistani army chief has been officially invited to the White House. Additionally, Pakistan nominated Trump for the 'Nobel Peace Prize', and the Trump family has reportedly crypto currency investments in Pakistan. A recent U.S.-Pakistan deal involving oil and gas exploration further highlights the warming ties. Another key milestone is a recent trade agreement in which the U.S. reduced tariffs on Pakistani exports from 29% to 19%, signaling a shift in bilateral economic policy. These moves raise the question: Is Pakistan prepared to sustain this momentum and build lasting relations with the United States? Equally, it remains to be seen how committed Trump is to maintaining this relationship. Trump's emerging engagement with Pakistan appears to be driven by two motives: one is based purely economic and the other on Geo political strategy. At present, the economic motive seems more prominent but some experts warned US once again utilizing Pak geography for geo political control in the region especially

against Iran.

In the context of Trump rare earth minerals REM focus, Pakistan—particularly the Balochistan region—is emerging as a critical alternative, containing 12 of the 18 globally recognized rare earth minerals. A potential REM partnership with Pakistan would help the U.S. reduce dependency on China, which currently dominates global REM supply chains and manufacturing, especially semiconductors. While Trump has imposed tariffs of 35% on Canada, 50% on Brazil, and 30% on Chinese goods, the U.S. continues to trade with China due to its irreplaceable role in sectors like tech, EV industry and other REM made products which are vital to the American automotive and defense industries. China's vast manufacturing base and REM production capacity give it considerable bargaining power. Against this backdrop, Trump's REM-focused interest in Pakistan aligns with his broader 'economic and strategic objectives'. If such a deal is struck, it could prompt the 'first-ever presidential visit to Pakistan during any of Trump's terms in office—a historic and symbolic shift. However, it remains uncertain whether trade interests alone will motivate

a visit, or if deeper strategic ambitions, such as countering China's regional influence, will play a decisive role. Either way, the U.S.-Pakistan relationship appears to be entering a new phase—one that could redefine their roles in the global economic and geopolitical landscape. Experts have observed a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan following the India-Pakistan escalation in May this year. The United States played a mediating role in the ceasefire agreement between the two nuclear-armed states. Pakistan thanked the U.S. for its role, while India repeatedly denied any U.S. involvement in the ceasefire. How can the shift in U.S.-Pakistan relations be interpreted? Geopolitical strategy? It is evident that India, a close defense ally of the U.S. in the South Asian region, has struggled to maintain its status after the recent conflict with Pakistan. Whether the US is pursuing a strategic partnership with Pakistan to contain China is still to be seen. If so, how effective will Pakistan be? Will Pakistan leave the Chinese camp against the US? This seems unlikely, as Pakistan remains a close ally of China in the economic and defense sectors, working for mutual interests. Experts have raised

questions about whether Pakistan can play a neutral role between the US and China. They argue that Pakistan is already adopting a balancing strategy: on one hand, it secured IMF funds to overcome the threat of economic default, and on the other hand, it continues its co-operation with China through CPEC, defense, and trade—an evident partnership seemingly directed against India during the Pakistan-India escalation in May. Another example of that Pakistan cancelled the Afghan Foreign Minister's official visit, reportedly under US instructions. Analysts suggest this reflects the renewed challenge Pakistan faces in maintaining its relationship with Afghanistan while navigating increasing US influence. Some defense and regional political analysts argue that Trump's ambition for investments in Pakistan could be aimed at keeping a close watch on Iran, a country on which the US has maintained focus after recently targeting its nuclear sites. Experts have already warned that Iran is still capable of reinitiating its nuclear program in the near future. Given that Iran shares a border with Pakistan, the US could potentially seek to utilize Pakistani territory against Iran. Some

analysts further argue that the US is aiding Israel in pursuit of its "Greater Israel" agenda in the Middle East. In this context, Pakistan's strategic location provides the US with a significant advantage against Iran. Therefore, if the U.S. President visits Pakistan purely for trade purposes—or even as part of a broader geopolitical strategic realignment, however unlikely—that development could harm India's regional influence while boosting Pakistan's diplomatic visibility. If the U.S. President skips the upcoming Quad summit and is attended by Deputy Prime minister or secretary of state Macro Rubio later this year but visits Pakistan instead—or visits both India and Pakistan—then Pakistan could claim a significant diplomatic success. Currently, India is facing challenges in maintaining smooth relations with the United States. President Trump imposed a 50% tariff on Indian goods. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi has continued purchasing oil from U.S.-sanctioned Russia and has deepened India's involvement with BRICS—a bloc that includes U.S. rivals like Russia and China. Additionally, India repeatedly denied U.S. involvement in mediating the recent India-Pakistan ceasefire, despite Trump's several statements.

This may be the ideal time for Pakistan to deepen engagement with the United States in the absence of Trump's longtime ally and friend, "Mr. Modi" who once upon a time calls "my friend Donald Trump." The last time a U.S. president visited Pakistan was in 2006, when George W. Bush made an official trip. Prior to that, Bill Clinton visited both India and Pakistan in 2000, and Richard Nixon did so in 1969. Since 2006, U.S. Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden have only visited India during their terms. Experts believe that if Pakistan can sustain long-term strategic and economic engagement with the U.S., it may once again earn the status of being included in official visits by American presidents.

Overall, if the announced investments in oil and gas and rare earth minerals are successfully initiated and completed with effective policy reforms, the eradication of terrorism will help maintain strong Pak-US relations, as Trump's interest in rare earth minerals seems to align with long-term US economic policy goals. When US-Pak has long-term investment policies as their priorities, it helps maintain good bilateral relations. In such cases, bilateral visits are common—as seen in the case of Pakistan's rival, India, where U.S. presidents have visited to boost economic ties.

—Atif Ali is Quaid-i-Azam University graduate

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 98

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Afghanistan under Taliban

THE future of Afghanistan under Taliban rule presents a complex picture of internal challenges, strained international relations, and cautious regional engagement. Since their return to power the Taliban have sought to project a new image of a more pragmatic and diplomatic entity, yet their governance remains marked by severe human rights abuses, particularly against women and girls. One of the most pressing issues is the Taliban's regressive policies on human rights. Despite initial promises of a more moderate approach, the regime has systematically rolled back freedoms, especially for women. Girls are banned from attending school beyond the sixth grade, women are prohibited from most forms of employment, and their freedom of movement is severely restricted. These policies, which some human rights organizations describe as "gender apartheid," have not only caused immense suffering but have also crippled the country's economy by excluding a significant portion of the workforce. The Taliban have also been accused of arbitrary arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances of activists and political opponents. The justice system has been replaced with a strict interpretation of Islamic law, leading to public floggings and executions, which have been widely condemned by the international community. The Taliban's foreign policy has been a delicate balancing act. They have had limited formal diplomatic contact with most countries, with only a few, like Russia, granting them official recognition. However, many of Afghanistan's neighbors, including Pakistan, Iran, and China, have engaged with the Taliban out of necessity to address shared security and economic interests. Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban has been particularly complex. While Pakistan had historically maintained close ties with the group, the new regime has created fresh challenges. Border clashes, coupled with a surge in attacks by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operating from Afghan soil, have strained relations. Despite these tensions, there are ongoing diplomatic efforts to improve ties, as both sides recognize the need for stability in the region. China, for its part, has a strong interest in a stable Afghanistan. It views the country as a crucial link for its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and is concerned about the potential for extremist groups to use Afghanistan as a base to threaten its western regions. China has engaged the Taliban on security and economic fronts, including discussions about extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan. Beijing's engagement is a pragmatic move aimed at protecting its investments and ensuring regional security. In their previous rule, the Taliban were isolated due to their unyielding and extremist policies, which ultimately led to their ouster. This time, it appears they have learned some lessons from the past. They are actively seeking to engage with the outside world, particularly with regional powers, to secure much-needed economic aid and political legitimacy. While this new approach has not yet translated into a fundamental shift in their internal policies, it suggests a recognition that they cannot survive in complete isolation.



PM Shehbaz raises Kashmir issue at the SCO summit

AT the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif brought up the issues of Kashmir and Balochistan, even though the SCO's charter does not allow for the discussion of bilateral disputes. This action, taken in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, served to highlight these long-standing issues on an international platform.

Prime Minister Sharif's decision to raise these issues at the SCO summit was a significant diplomatic move. While the SCO is primarily focused on regional security and economic cooperation, and explicitly avoids taking up bilateral disputes, this was an opportunity to draw the attention of world leaders to what Pakistan views as critical humanitarian and security concerns. By speaking out, Sharif ensured that the issues of Kashmir and Balochistan were not sidelined, even if no formal resolution could be expected from the summit itself. His remarks underscored Pakistan's perspective that lasting peace in the region is impossible without a just and lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict.

The Kashmir issue remains one of the world's most enduring and dangerous flashpoints. A resolution is essential for the stability and prosperity of the entire South Asian region. While both Pakistan and India agree that the issue must be resolved bilaterally, their inability to find common ground has led to a cycle of conflict, mistrust, and immense suffering for the people on both sides of the border. This continuous state of tension diverts valuable resources that could otherwise be used for economic development, poverty alleviation, and improving the lives of citizens. The people of both nations, particularly the poor, are the ones who bear the greatest burden of this prolonged geopolitical struggle.

For decades, the United States and other global powers have been hesitant to play a direct role in mediating the Kashmir dispute. This reluctance is often attributed to their own vested interests in the region, which include maintaining a strategic balance of power and cultivating relationships with both India and Pakistan without alienating either. The lack of external pressure to find a solution has allowed the conflict to fester, perpetuating the cycle of violence and instability. A genuine, lasting resolution will require not only bilateral dialogue but also a shift in the international community's approach, which has so far been marked by cautious non-intervention. The resources spent on military preparedness and cross-border skirmishes could instead be directed toward education, healthcare, and infrastructure development, transforming the lives of millions.

What Makes the Ukraine Russia War Unique

Qamar Bashir



Leadership and diplomacy sit over all of this. President Trump has sought to test diplomatic openings with Moscow, but as of mid-August a high-profile meeting produced no deal, and fighting has intensified since. Washington continues to weigh sanctions, export-control tightening, and security guarantees alongside European leaders; in parallel, Europeans insist they must be at the table for any settlement they will be asked to underwrite. This war, unfolding in the heart of Europe, should never have happened in an age where humanity prides itself on knowledge, civility, and progress

UKRAINE entered this war as the presumed underdog—smaller economy, fewer troops, and seemingly overmatched by a nuclear-armed Russia. Early expectations of a quick collapse proved wrong because two big forces collided: Ukraine's own adaptation and resolve, and Europe's decision that defending Kyiv was, in practice, defending Europe. That political will translated into money, weapons, training, and intelligence support on a scale and with a speed that Moscow did not anticipate. The result is a grinding third year in which Russia has advanced in places but still not broken Ukraine's state, army, or economy—and in which the very character of warfare has been rewritten by drones, long-range precision strikes, and an unprecedented air-defence duel.

On the battlefield, the single biggest operational surprise has been the drone revolution. Ukraine industrialized "good-enough" unmanned systems—cheap FPV strike drones, long-range one-way attack drones, and uncrewed surface vessels (USVs)—to impose constant pressure on Russian logistics, airbases, and the Black Sea Fleet. Those naval drones forced Russia to pull major combatants away from Sevastopol toward safer ports, degrading its ability to blockade Ukraine's coast and contributing to a remarkable Ukrainian asymmetric sea campaign. Long-range strike has been the other pillar. The United States transferred ATACMS with 300-kilometre range in 2024, giving Ukraine new options against high-value targets deep behind the lines. That capability, combined with European Storm Shadow/SCALP and Ukrainian-built long-range drones, underpins the campaign hitting Russian oil infrastructure. Through August 2025, independent tallies indicate those drone strikes have taken roughly 10–17% of Russia's refining capacity offline at various points—an effect visible at the pump and in emergency policy responses inside Russia. If this is the war of drones and strikes, it is also the war of air defence. Ukraine's layered network—Patriot, NASAMS, IRIST and others—has rewritten assumptions about what modern integrated air defences can do under fire, including the first confirmed shoot-downs of Russia's Kinzhal air-launched ballistic missile. At the same time, Russia adapted with massed Shahed-type drones and heavy use of ballistic and cruise missiles to saturate interceptors, paired with powerful electronic warfare to degrade guidance and communications. The duel continues to evolve: intercept successes are real, but saturation and glide-bomb tactics have bitten hard. The Black Sea is where Ukraine's innovation most visibly paid off. By turning USVs into precision ka-

mikaze boats and pairing them with intelligence from partners, Kyiv chipped away at ships, piers, and command nodes, compelling the Black Sea Fleet to redistribute to less exposed ports and reducing its freedom to threaten Ukraine's coastline and grain lanes. That maritime asymmetry—infllicted by a country with almost no surviving navy—has strategic consequences disproportionate to cost. Why, then, has Russia—despite numbers, artillery, and nuclear weapons—failed to secure a decisive victory? First, it misjudged the political spine of its opponents. Europe decided early that Ukraine's survival was a core European interest, and it has put its money where its mouth is. The EU's multi-year Ukraine Facility, worth up to €50 billion through 2027, created predictable budget support, while total EU-level and member-state assistance across financial, military, and humanitarian lines has reached roughly €150 billion. That predictable lifeline kept the Ukrainian state functioning and the army supplied even when battlefield fortunes wavered. Second, Moscow underestimated what U.S. and European intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR)—including commercial space—would do to Russian command posts, ammo dumps, and air defences. Western ISR didn't fight the war, but it made Ukrainian strikes smarter and faster and helped compensate for smaller forces. Third, Russia's logistics and corruption problems, while not new, were brutally exposed by the scale and tempo of this campaign. Under strain, the Russian system struggled to keep front-line formations fully equipped with trained infantry, modern optics, and precision munitions, and to sustain coherent combined-arms manoeuvre after the war's first months. Fourth, Ukrainian denial of the air domain—without actually achieving air superiority—has been unexpectedly effective. Air defences blunted Russia's ability to use its fast jets in depth, and since mid-2024 the arrival of Western-donated F-16s has begun to stiffen Ukraine's air posture and air-defence suppression capability, albeit in limited numbers so far. Fifth, Russia's war economy, though resilient, is feeling real pressure. The refinery-strike campaign has fed domestic fuel shortages and rationing in some regions, forcing ad-hoc controls and export bans. Lower oil and gas revenues this summer further squeezed the budget alongside very high nominal interest rates. Sustained pressure here does not guarantee battlefield collapse, but it narrows Moscow's menu of options.

None of this means Ukraine has had it easy. Russia has adapted, too. It mass-produced glide-bomb kits

(UMPK) to lob heavy bombs from beyond Ukraine's front-line air-defence umbrellas, pulverizing defensive positions and urban strongpoints. It scaled up Shahed-type drones and improved missile salvos to exhaust intercept stocks, and it is iterating on EW to blunt Ukrainian drones. The result is a seesaw of adaptation in which each side's marginal gains are contested within months.

Leadership and diplomacy sit over all of this. President Trump has sought to test diplomatic openings with Moscow, but as of mid-August a high-profile meeting produced no deal, and fighting has intensified since. Washington continues to weigh sanctions, export-control tightening, and security guarantees alongside European leaders; in parallel, Europeans insist they must be at the table for any settlement they will be asked to underwrite.

This war, unfolding in the heart of Europe, should never have happened in an age where humanity prides itself on knowledge, civility, and progress. Europe, with its centuries of cultural achievement, scientific discovery, and lessons from devastating past wars, was expected to have built a framework strong enough to prevent such catastrophe. Yet the conflict continues into its third year, threatening not just Ukraine and Russia but also global security, economic stability, and human dignity.

Finally, the lesson of this war must transform global thinking: that military might alone cannot deliver lasting security. Sustainable peace depends on economic interdependence, technological cooperation, and mutual respect for sovereignty. The same technologies—AI, robotics, cyber systems, and satellites—that now make this war deadlier could, if directed differently, make peace stronger and more enduring.

Humanity, after centuries of struggle, innovation, and shared civilization, owes itself a better path forward. Europe, the cradle of modern democracy and human rights, must lead—not with weapons alone but with wisdom, reconciliation, and courage. If the war's architects fail to act, history will remember this as a failure not of power but of imagination. Yet if they succeed, Ukraine's resilience, Europe's unity, and the world's collective resolve could together turn a battlefield tragedy into a foundation for a safer, more cooperative, and more humane international order.

— Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attache to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

Global South and Climate Justice

Tasfia Mahin / Syed Anwar /
Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

Pakistan faces its most vulnerable monsoon this year as heavy rainfall, landslides, and severe floods wreak havoc in the country, with around 800 people dying. It still endures heavy floods with growing toll when this article is being written. India-administered Kashmir, Thailand, and Bangladesh, too, encountered floods and landslides with adverse effects. Wildfires resurface across the Mediterranean region. China, South Korea, and Japan once again felt the unwanted price of human-induced climate change

NEO-MARXIST Immanuel Wallerstein developed a theory named "world-systems theory" that understandably portrays the core-periphery relations between the Northern hemisphere's rich countries and the Southern developing and underdeveloped nations in the capitalist world system, where a few business elites rule the world, while exploiting the marginalized and poor majority. In an interview, Noam Chomsky labeled those tycoons as "masters of mankind", who intervene in the decisions made by the states. Known as the principal greenhouse gas emitters, they value profit-making and the exploitation of resources, undermining climate hazards.

Pakistan faces its most vulnerable monsoon this year as heavy rainfall, landslides, and severe floods wreak havoc in the country, with around 800 people dying. It still endures heavy floods with growing toll when this article is being written. India-administered Kashmir, Thailand, and Bangladesh, too, encountered floods and landslides with adverse effects. Wildfires resurface across the Mediterranean region. China, South Korea, and Japan once again felt the unwanted price of human-induced climate change. As unprecedented wildfires, deadly heat-waves, erratic monsoons, and rising seas ripple, the ever-cycling question shakes the human conscience: Can the world be united against climate change? Or can the global south ever be able to raise its voice effectively, out of geopolitical race and narrow economic interest?

The climate crisis is the defining issue of our time—no longer an impending threat, but a part of our daily realities. But while no corner of the world is untouched, the damage is not distributed equally. The richest nations, the United States, members of the European Union, and China, are responsible for the overwhelming bulk of historical emissions. Meanwhile, the countries of the Global South, which have contributed the least, find themselves

on the frontlines of destruction. Wealthy nations dominate the agenda at international negotiations. They make all the important decisions, including how much finance will flow, who will receive technology, and when promises will be honored. Meanwhile, those who suffer the most, the vulnerable countries of the Global South, struggle to have their voices heard. Even the 2015 Paris Agreement pledge to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels is slipping out of reach due to the inaction of developed polluting countries. Studying several industrially advanced and oil-producing countries such as the US, Germany, and Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management conducted a research published in the Springer Nature and concluded that those countries are not on track to meet their climate commitment, while most of them are far away from the trajectory. The recent Geneva talk on plastic pollution stalled without any deal due to opposition from petrochemical producers and the US. Trump, a businessman, significantly cut climate funding, calling climate change a "hoax", while at the same time backing fossil fuels, signing an executive order that starts the process of withdrawing the US from the Paris Agreement, and obstructing renewable energy.

Climate justice means holding polluters accountable for the damage caused, ensuring fair access to resources and technology, and defending the right to development. For the Global South, the demand is not only for survival—it is for justice. But there is a catch: while vulnerable countries share these priorities, they are not always united. Internal differences often weaken Global South coalitions. Each country brings its own economic realities, governance structures, and political interests to the table. Some prioritize rapid development through industrialization, others struggle with donor dependency, and still others

fear being left behind in the transition to clean energy. These divergences, while understandable, create cracks that wealthier nations can exploit.

Unity among the Global South is essential for effectively challenging wealthier nations. True coalitions require active building through deeper cooperation, inclusive policymaking, and a focus on collective power rather than individual interests, strengthening South-South partnerships. The establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 would be an inspiration to succeed. It demonstrated how much can be done with voices that are on the same page and demands that cannot be compromised. It is the way forward that must take place with enhanced cooperation amongst the South, in terms of resources and skills, rather than engaging in a competition in the aid game. Engaging civil society and frontline communities in decision-making, not only the government elites, and going to climate summits with common stances on finance, adaptation, and justice. Furthermore, similar to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during the Cold War era vis-à-vis the USA-USSR bloc politics, we propose the global south to create an association of its own, including severely impacted countries by climate change, to raise a more strengthened and united voice to achieve climate justice.

Climate change is not just about melting ice caps or rising temperatures. It is about people, the millions who risk losing their homes, livelihoods, and cultures to a crisis they did not create. If vulnerable nations stand together, they can reshape global climate governance into something fairer and more humane. If they do not, the future will be written by the few, while billions are left to pick through the wreckage. Communities in Bangladesh will continue to lose their land to the sea, families in Pakistan will keep being driven from their homes by floods, and farmers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia will face devastating droughts and displacement.

Briefs

PM calls for dialogue, peace, connectivity

FROM PAGE 01

must know that the world no longer buys this narrative. We had irrefutable evidence of the involvement of some foreign hands in the devastating Jaffar Express train hostage incident as well as countless other terrorist attacks against us in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province,” the prime minister remarked. The prime minister strongly condemning Israel’s unjustified aggression against Iran, a fellow SCO member, called for an immediate end to the bloodshed in Gaza. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s support for the two-state solution with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of Palestine. As regards, Afghanistan situation, he said Pakistan supports a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for the benefit of the entire region. He expressed hope that trilateral cooperation between Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan would yield positive results. Addressing the challenge of climate-induced disasters, the prime minister spoke about the devastating floods currently affecting Pakistan due to torrential rains, which have caused massive human and economic losses.

Shehbaz, Pezeshkian review Pak-Iran...

FROM PAGE 01

consistent support and reaffirmed Iran’s determination to enhance bilateral collaboration in various areas of mutual interest. Referring to the visit of Iranian president to Pakistan last month, the prime minister said that the said visit was very helpful in further strengthening the relations between the two countries. Pakistani people were very happy to receive the Iranian president in Pakistan on his recent visit, he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz emphasized the importance of further strengthening political and economic ties between the two friendly countries. He also reaffirmed Pakistan’s unwavering solidarity with the people and Government of Iran and reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to regional peace, underscoring dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable path toward de-escalation and stability.

Over 100 perish in deadly Afghanistan earthquake

FROM PAGE 01

The earthquake was Afghanistan’s deadliest since June 2022, when tremors of magnitude-6.1 killed at least 1,000 people. The quake razed three villages in Kunar, with substantial damage in many others, authorities said. At least 610 people were killed in Kunar, with 12 dead in Nangarhar, they added. Rescuers were scrambling to find survivors in the area bordering Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, where homes of mud and stone were levelled by the midnight quake that hit at a depth of 10 kilometres. Military rescue teams fanned out across the two provinces, the defence ministry said in a statement, adding that 40 flights carried out 420 wounded and dead. “So far, no foreign governments have reached out to provide support for rescue or relief work,” a foreign office spokesperson said. Expressing condolences over the loss of lives, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said: “Deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, which shook Kabul & was also felt in various parts of Pakistan”. “With reports confirming hundreds of precious human lives lost & villages destroyed, our hearts go out to the victims and their families. On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt condolences & prayers to the bereaved families,” the PM said in a post on X while expressing solidarity with Afghan brothers & sisters in this hour of grief.

Record prize money revealed for ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup

The 13th edition of the women’s showpiece 50-over tournament will begin on Sept 30. Pakistan is set to play its matches in Sri Lanka following India’s refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy earlier this year, which resulted in a “hybrid model” being decided upon

DNA

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced a staggering increase in the prize money for the tournament set to be staged in India and Sri Lanka. The 13th edition of the women’s showpiece 50-over tournament will begin on Sept 30. Pakistan is set to play its matches in Sri Lanka following India’s refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy earlier this year, which resulted in a “hybrid model” being decided upon. The overall prize money at the eight-team marquee tournament totals \$13.88 million

— a monumental rise of 297 per cent from \$3.5m at the last edition held in New Zealand in 2022, ICC said in a statement. The total prize pot eclipses that at the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup from two years ago in India, which had total prize money of \$10 million. “The announcement aligns with ICC’s strategy to amplify the growth of women’s cricket and a decision to introduce pay parity was announced ahead of the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2024,” ICC said. The winners of the 13th edition of the Women’s Cricket World Cup will receive prize money of \$4.48 million — a 239pc increase from the \$1.32m awarded to Australia in 2022. “Meanwhile, the runners-up will re-

ceive \$2.24m, an increase of 273pc in comparison to the \$600,000 England won three years ago. The two losing semi-finalists will take home \$1.12m (up from \$300,000 in 2022) each. Each group stage participant is guaranteed to earn \$250,000 while each group-stage win will get the victors \$34,314. In the second half of the final table, the teams finishing fifth and sixth will take home \$700,000 each and those in seventh and eighth place will earn \$280,000. “This announcement marks a defining milestone in the journey of women’s cricket,” ICC Chairman Jay Shah said. “This four-fold increase in prize money is a landmark moment for women’s

cricket and reflects our clear commitment to its long-term growth. “Our message is simple, women cricketers must know they will be treated on par with men if they choose this sport professionally. “The uplift underscores our ambition to deliver a world-class ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup and to inspire the next generation of players and fans. “Women’s cricket is on a remarkable upward trajectory, and with this step we are confident the momentum will accelerate. “We call upon all stakeholders, fans, media, partners, and Member Boards, to join us in championing the women’s game and ensuring it receives the recognition and respect it deserves.”

Miami’s Suarez at centre of spitting incident after Leagues Cup loss

If there’s a reaction, maybe there was provocation, says Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano

DNA

LOS ANGELES: Luis Suarez appeared to spit at a staff member of the opposing team during an ugly brawl following Inter Miami’s 3-0 loss to the Seattle Sounders in the Leagues Cup final on Sunday. Immediately after the final whistle at Lumen Field, veteran Uruguayan striker Suarez rushed at 20-year-old Sounders midfielder Obed Vargas and put him in a headlock, sparking a melee involving multiple players and staff from both sides. Officials scrambled to restore order, but cameras caught Suarez appearing to spit at a Seattle coach as he walked away from Vargas. Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano said after



wards he was too far away to comment on any specific incidents. “Nobody likes these kinds of actions at the end of a match, but if there’s a reaction, maybe there was provocation,” he said. Certainly, there were mul-

multiple scuffles before the trophy ceremony finally got underway, with both teams still in attendance. Sounders coach Brian Schmetzer took the high road, preferring to focus on the strong collective effort from his team in a

victory over a Miami side led by Argentine superstar Lionel Messi. “Unfortunately, that is going to take some of the attention away from a great performance by the Seattle Sounders,” Schmetzer said of the brawl. “I guess we can take that as a compliment that Miami’s frustrations led to some things happening on the field that shouldn’t happen on the field. “I’m going to shut that down because that shouldn’t be the story,” said Schmetzer, who added he had a “quiet moment” with Messi on the field after the game. But Suarez will be under scrutiny for his role. The 38-year-old’s reputation as one of the game’s arch villains was cemented when he bit Giorgio Chiellini during the 2014 World Cup. He has also been sanctioned for biting incidents and racist abuse of an opposing player in club play.

Tawfiq Shines to Win UAE President’s Cup in Kazan

KAZAN: Tawfiq was crowned champion of the UAE President’s Cup for Purebred Arabian Horses at the 10th stop of the series in Russia. The race was held on Saturday, 30 August 2025, at the Kazan International Equestrian Sand Racetrack, as part of the 32nd edition of the prestigious Cup. The Russian leg of the series drew a crowd of 20,000 spectators, coinciding with the 35th National Day Festival of the Republic of Tatarstan. The carnival-like celebration featured numerous cultural and entertainment activities, showcasing Tatarstan’s heritage, culture, and national festivities. The UAE President’s Cup races continue to register outstanding achievements in Russia, reinforcing their distinguished reputation and strong presence on the global racing stage. Following successful rounds across the Arab world, Europe, and the United States, the Cup remains one of the world’s most prestigious and historic classic races — in line with the vision of the UAE leadership to advance the Purebred Arabian horse racing industry and support owners and breeders worldwide.

Tawfiq (General × Rolly Polly by Valina Des Fabries), owned by D.A. Chacota, trained by Sultan Semenov, and ridden by Hamzat Ulubiev, secured the title in a dramatic finish, crossing the line just 0.05 seconds ahead of Voskhod Tersk (Haif Al Khalediah × Verika by Camelot), Medni Maximus (Maximus de Alip × Minorca by Mongrant) came third. The Group 1 race, contested over 1,800 metres for horses aged four years and above, featured 16 Purebred Arabian horses from some of Russia’s leading studs, with a total prize purse of USD 100,000. The race maintained a tactical pace until the final turn, when Tawfiq surged forward in a thrilling duel with Voskhod Tersk. — Agencies

Export of sports goods increases 32.50% in July 2025

The gloves exports also increased 9.18 percent by going up from US\$4.606 million last year to US\$5.029 million, PBS data revealed

ISLAMABAD: The export of sports goods from the country witnessed an increase of 32.50 percent during the first month of the current financial year (2025-26) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year. The country exported sports goods worth US\$38.901 million during July 2025 as opposed to the export of US\$29.358 million during July 2024, showing a growth of 32.50 percent, according to the data released by PBS. Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 44.70 percent, surging from US\$17.775 million to US\$25.720 million during the month under review. The gloves exports also increased 9.18 percent by going up from US\$4.606 million last year to US\$5.029 million, the PBS data revealed. Likewise, the exports of all other sports goods rose by 16.84 percent to US\$8.152 million from US\$6.977 million same month last year. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports of sports goods increased by 6.93 percent during July 2025, in contrast to the exports of US\$36.378 million in June 2025, the PBS data revealed. On a month-on-month basis, the exports of footballs increased by 18.44 percent while the exports of gloves and all other sports products decreased by 8.90 and 10.83 percent, respectively. — APP

DUBAI: Global MICE Organisation Limited (GMOLx), in partnership with the Dubai Sports Council (DSC), announced the launch of LEVEL UP, a sports tech innovation expo dedicated to showcasing next-generation technologies across multiple sports. Scheduled to be held from 27-29 November, 2025, at Dubai Harbour, LEVEL UP will bring together over 10,000 global attendees, including athletes, federations, startups, investors, influencers and media to accelerate innovation in the sports tech sector, reinforcing Dubai’s position as an international sports and entertainment hub and a community-centric city. Hosting LEVEL UP in Dubai offers global players a strategic gateway into the GCC’s rapidly expanding sports economy. Driven by increased investment in infrastructure and the rising number of international sporting events, the Middle East and Africa sports tech market is projected to reach USD\$3.3 billion by 2030. Dubai is at the heart of this growth, with the sports industry contributing approximately US\$2.5 billion annually to its economy, driven by ambitious national strategies, a vibrant startup ecosystem, private sector initiatives and an active health and fitness community. LEVEL UP will showcase transformative technology applications and

Dubai Launches ‘LEVEL UP’ Sports Tech Expo

advanced infrastructure that are enhancing athletes’ performance and revolutionising both established and emerging sports. Attendees will experience first-hand the latest innovations in performance-enhancing wearables, immersive fan engagement, stadium security technologies, AI-driven analytics, training and rehabilitation solutions, esports, gaming and media broadcasting. The Expo will spotlight the evolution of major sports, including football, Formula 1, cricket, tennis, golf and athletics, alongside breakthrough developments in swimming, horse racing, extreme sports and esports, cementing Dubai’s role as a global stage for sporting excellence.

Eisa Sharif, Director of Sport Events Department at Dubai Sports Council, said: “Dubai is committed to hosting world-class sporting events and community-driven initiatives with innovation at the core. Launching LEVEL UP will provide an international platform that fosters a collaborative ecosystem to drive innovation, accelerate industry growth, and connect the full spec-

trum of the sports tech community. Hosting LEVEL UP in Dubai will also offer global players access to a high-growth regional market, connecting them to talent, capital, and opportunity across the sports tech value chain.” The three-day expo will feature strategic panel discussions, keynote speeches, interactive showcases, live demos, brand engagement activations and celebrity meet-and-greets. Dedicated to engaging the wider community, LEVEL UP will host side events such as sports competitions and tournaments in padel, street football and basketball, inviting participation from corporate leaders and local residents. LEVEL UP will also host a prestigious award ceremony, celebrating the most influential sports tech startups and industry leaders driving global change in sports performance and fan experiences. Namir Hourani, Managing Director of GMOLx, said: “LEVEL UP is designed to engage everyone — from curious young minds and sports enthusiasts to corporate leaders and global innovators. — DNA

Alcaraz, Djokovic Advance to US Open Quarters; Sabalenka Cruises

Alcaraz, Djokovic, Sabalenka Cruise Into US Open Quarters; Krejcikova Stuns With Epic Comeback

NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic motored into the quarter-finals of the US Open on Sunday as reigning women’s champion Aryna Sabalenka kept her title defence firmly on track. Spanish second seed Alcaraz and tennis icon Djokovic — who are on course to meet in the semi-finals — both recorded straight-sets wins on the Arthur Ashe Stadium main court. Five-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz overpowered France’s Arthur Rinderknech 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-4 and has not dropped a set to date at the championships. “I think my style of tennis suits pretty well the energy here in New York,” the 22-year-old said. “The energy is special playing the day session, playing the night session. It doesn’t matter, people are always there. I love it and I think that’s why I play my best tennis here,” he added. Alcaraz will face Czech 20th seed Jiri Lehecka in the quarter-finals on Tuesday. Lehecka reached the last eight of a Grand Slam for only the second time after battling past veteran Frenchman Adrian Panarino, winning 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Djokovic, 38, continued his latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam singles title with a brisk 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 defeat of unseeded German Jan-Lennard Struff. “It definitely helps if you serve well. I think I had a great serving performance last round and also tonight,” said Djokovic. “That helps make it easier on the court.” Djokovic faces a quarter-final on Tuesday

against fourth seed Taylor Fritz, the lone American man left in the draw. Fritz sprang into the last eight with a brisk 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 defeat of the Czech Republic’s Tomas Machac in 1hr 38min. Fritz is carrying hopes of first US men’s Grand Slam champion since Andy Roddick in 2003 following the exits of fellow seeds Ben Shelton, Tommy Paul and Frances Tiafoe. But Fritz will head into his quarter-final against Djokovic with history stacked against him. Djokovic has won all 10 of their past meetings, including a 2023 quarter-final win at the US Open. “I think the first, almost like seven or eight



times I played him, I probably just wasn’t a good enough player to really have that much of a chance,” said Fritz. “I think only the last couple times we’ve played I think I’ve been this just better player that can, you know, I’d say compete and have chances.” In the women’s draw, Sabalenka never looked troubled in a 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Moldova-born Spaniard Cristina Bucsa, ranked 95th in the world. Sabalenka has now reached the quarter-finals or better at 12 straight Grand Slam tournaments, a consistency she attributes to striking a balance in her life on and off



the court. “I’m super proud, I think that’s an incredible achievement,” Sabalenka said. “I think for me the key was balancing on and off-the-court life. I think I’ve done a great job on balancing really hard work and also great recovery and some fun time outside of tennis court. I think that’s been the key.” Sabalenka faces a quarter-final against either ninth seed Elena Rybakina or the Czech Republic’s Marketa Vondrousova, who were playing later Sunday. In other women’s draw action on Sunday, the Czech Republic’s unseeded former French Open and Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova conjured a remarkable escape to oust Taylor Townsend, saving an incredible eight match points before digging out a 1-6, 7-6 (15/13), 6-3 victory. Krejcikova fought off a match point on her own serve at 5-4 down in the second set, and then somehow survived seven match points in an enthralling tie-breaker to move on. “What a match,” said Krejcikova, who revealed she had wondered if she would ever play tennis again after missing the opening months of the season with a back injury. “I was sidelined for six months and didn’t know if I would ever play again. I’m super happy I can be here.” Krejcikova will face American fourth seed Jessica Pegula in the quarter-finals. Pegula, beaten in the final last year, advanced to the last eight after breezing past compatriot Ann Li 6-1, 6-2 on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. — APP

Pak U23 Football Team arrives in Cambodia for AFC Qualifiers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan U23 national football team has reached Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to take part in the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers. The squad travelled from Karachi via a private airline with a layover in Bangkok and landed in the Cambodian capital on Monday, said a press release. Pakistan will face Iraq in its opening group match on September 3, play against host nation Cambodia on September 6, and conclude the group stage with a clash against Oman on September 9. The AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 will be hosted by Saudi Arabia.

Climate change...

FROM PAGE 01

fresh showers, as per Islamabad DC Irfan Memon. The Islamabad DC has directed the relevant authorities to ensure monitoring of low-lying areas and drains. Memon also instructed respective assistant commissioners to be present in the field to oversee the situation. The water level in the Punjab’s rivers is expected to rise after the High Commission of India informed Pakistan of incoming floodwater from Harike and Ferozpur headworks, according to the Pakistan Commission for Indus Water. “Harike and Ferozpur along the Sutlej in India are at high flood level as of 8am on Sept 1, which will affect the water levels in the respective downstream districts,” the Punjab PDMA said in an advisory.

Five embrace shahadat...

FROM PAGE 01

The Pakistan Army has reiterated its resolve to continue its training and operational activities to ensure the highest standards of readiness in defence of the country.

Shehbaz, Ilham...

FROM PAGE 01

cooperation in trade, investment, energy, connectivity, defence, education, and people-to-people exchanges and expressed satisfaction at the growing momentum in Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations. Both leaders underscored the value of regional connectivity projects and enhanced cooperation under multilateral frameworks, including the SCO, to promote regional prosperity and integration. They also shared perspectives on emerging global challenges and agreed to maintain close coordination in relevant international fora.

Pakistan’s core inflation slows down

FROM PAGE 01

The CPI inflation Urban, increased by 3.4% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in August 2025 compared to 4.4% of the previous month and 11.7% in August 2024. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased by 0.7% in August 2025 compared to 3.4% in the previous month and an increase of 0.3% in August 2024. CPI inflation Rural, increased by 2.4% on year-on-year basis in August 2025 compared to an increase of 3.5% in the previous month and 6.7% in August 2024.

Ishaq Dar talks to...

FROM PAGE 01

H.E. Mr. Hisein Ibrahim Taha, extended his heartfelt condolences to Afghanistan following the devastating earthquake that struck Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan, which, according to reports, has claimed hundreds of lives and left many others injured. Secretary-General affirmed the OIC’s solidarity with the Afghan people and its readiness to provide its support during these difficult times. He instructed the OIC Office in Afghanistan to coordinate with the relevant authorities in assessing needs.

Briefs

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,353 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,353.34 points, a positive change of 0.91 percent, closing at 149,971.12 points against 148,617.78 points last trading day.

A total of 1,183,076,656 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,342,203,045 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 48.849 billion against Rs 52.305 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 480 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 272 of them recorded gains and 175 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 33 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were B.O. Punjab with 97,697,793 shares at Rs 16.58 per share, K-Electric Limited with 85,903,125 shares at Rs5.43 per share and Pervaz Ahmed Co. with 54,520,834 shares at Rs3.04 per share.

PAI Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 301.00 per share price, closing at Rs 27,300.00, whereas the runner-up was Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs216.81 rise in its per share price to Rs4,026.63.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 920.32 per share closing at Rs 32,701.00 followed by Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 77.20 decline in its share price to close at Rs 8,439.18. Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 328 companies traded shares in the market out of which 236 witnessed gain, 90 loss where the prices of 2 companies remained unchanged.—APP

Rupee gains 02 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 02 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.75 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.77. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.9 and Rs 283.7, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.33 to close at Rs 330.21 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.88, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.91, whereas an increase of Rs 1.10 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 381.16 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 380.06. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paisa each to close at Rs 76.70 and Rs 75.08 respectively.—APP

Berlin urges Israel to 'immediately' improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza

FRANKFURT: Israel must "immediately" improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza, the German government's representative for human rights and humanitarian aid said Monday, ahead of a trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories. Until recently Israel has enjoyed broad support across the political spectrum in Germany, but Chancellor Friedrich Merz's tone toward Israel has sharpened as the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza has deteriorated. Last month, the United Nations officially declared a famine in Gaza, after a UN-backed report warned that 500,000 people were facing "catastrophic" conditions in the war-ravaged territory. "The Israeli government must improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza immediately, comprehensively, sustainably, and in accordance with humanitarian principles and international law," said envoy Lars Castellucci, a lawmaker of the Social Democrats, which govern with Merz's conservatives.—APP

Pak respects sovereignty of all SCO members:PM

Condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including state terrorism, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif underlined that Pakistan had rendered great sacrifices in combatting terrorism for the regional and global stability

DNA

TIANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif led Pakistan delegation to the Summit meetings of SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) and SCO CHS Plus presided by President Xi Jinping of China in Tianjin. In his statement during the SCO CHS Summit, Prime Minister Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the "Shanghai Spirit" that stands for mutual trust and respect for shared prosperity and development. Reaffirming the purposes and principles of UN and SCO Charters, the Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan respects sovereignty and territorial integrity of all SCO members as well as all international and bilateral treaties. Hoping that all SCO members follow these principles, he called for unhindered access to due share of water as per existing treaties among the SCO member States. In the context of relations with neighbors, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan sought normal relations with all its neighbours, preferred dialogue and diplomacy over confrontation.

To ensure a lasting peace in South Asia, he called for a comprehensive and structured dialogue to discuss all outstanding disputes. Condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including state terrorism, the Prime Minister underlined that Pakistan had rendered great sacrifices in combatting terrorism for the regional and global stability. He mentioned that Pakistan had irrefutable evidence of foreign involvement in the Jaffar Express train hostage incident and numerous other terror attacks in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Prime Minister outlined the Government's economic transformation plan, that is founded on three pillars: expansion of trade, innovation and enhanced revenue generation. The Prime Minister unequivocally denounced Israel's inhuman military offensive against Gaza and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. He condemned attack on Iran, a fellow SCO member State. Reiterating the negative implications of instability in Afghanistan on the development of entire SCO region, Prime Minister

Sharif called for engagement with Afghanistan in a meaningful manner. The Prime Minister highly praised SCO's vision of regional connectivity and economic integration and underscored Pakistan's strategic geographical location as an ideal trade and transit hub for the entire SCO region. He noted China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a key initiative for achieving trans-regional economic and trade integration. The CHS discussed important regional and international strategic political, security and economic issues, challenges and developments. The Council approved and adopted several decisions and statements in various areas of cooperation. Besides adopting the Tianjin Declaration that outlines the views of SCO leadership on important regional and global issues of interest to the Organization, the CHS adopted statements of cooperation among SCO countries on: Multilateral Trading System; Artificial Intelligence; Strengthening Scientific, Technical and Innovative Cooperation; Green Industry Cooper-

ation and others. The Heads of State signed two agreements establishing two new permanent bodies of SCO i.e. Universal Center in Moscow and an Anti-Drug Center in Dushanbe. The Council also approved various plans and strategies for the ongoing cooperation in the economic and security fields. The SCO Development Strategy until 2035 was also adopted. In his statement during the SCO CHS Plus meeting on the theme "Promoting multilateralism a reality, ensuring regional security, and promoting sustainable development.", the Prime Minister stressed the need for multilateralism and respecting the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and resolution of disputes through peaceful means. Expressing Pakistan's firm belief in the promise and power of multilateralism, he advised to uphold dialogue, mutual respect and inclusive diplomacy. He advocated that SCO must prioritize innovation-driven growth. He welcomed SCO's commitment to cooperation in development and assured that Pakistan would contribute as a reliable

partner. The Prime Minister welcomed Lao People's Democratic Republic as new Dialogue Partner of SCO. He also welcomed President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative and appreciated the able Chinese Chairmanship of SCO during last one year. On the sidelines of these Summits, the Prime Minister had important bilateral meetings with the Presidents of SCO member States and Dialogue Partners States. Issues of mutual interest and matters relating to further strengthening political, economic and trade relations were discussed by the leaders. Since becoming full member of SCO in 2017, Pakistan has actively and constructively participated in all SCO activities and mechanisms as well as extended all out cooperation towards achieving SCO's multi-sectoral agenda. Pakistan hosted the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad in 16-17 October last year. CHS is the highest decision-making forum in SCO. It gives strategic, political and security direction to the Organization. The SCO CHS adopts declarations, statements, and important decisions, etc.



TIANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State.

Israel sends tanks deeper in Gaza City, more families flee

CAIRO: Israel pushed tanks deeper into Gaza City and detonated explosives-laden vehicles in one suburb as airstrikes killed at least 19 people on Monday, Palestinian officials and witnesses said. Reports of the offensive came as the president of the world's leading genocide scholars' association said it had passed a resolution saying the legal criteria have been met to establish that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. There was no immediate response from Israel on the reported offensive or on the statement from the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Israel has in the past strongly denied that its actions in Gaza amount to genocide. The Israeli military said its forces were continuing to fight Hamas across the enclave and over the past day had struck several military structures and outposts that had been used to stage attacks on its troops. Residents said Israeli forces sent old armored vehicles into the eastern parts of the overcrowded Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, then blew them up remotely, destroying several houses and forcing more families to flee.—APP

Women empowerment key pillar of ICCI's economic vision

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has reaffirmed its strong commitment to empowering women economically, with a special focus on promoting entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth in the country. This resolve was expressed by ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, along with Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mahmood Chaudhry, while addressing a visiting delegation of women entrepreneurs at the chamber on Monday. President ICCI emphasized that women entrepreneurs are a vital force for the country's development and highlighted the Chamber's ongoing efforts to build an inclusive and supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem. "Empowering women through business and innovation is not only a social imperative but an economic necessity," he remarked. He shared that ICCI has entered into strategic partnerships with several leading universities in the region, signing multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at supporting women-led enterprises. These partnerships are fostering entrepreneurship through joint initiatives, mentorship programs, and tailored skills development. Nasir also stressed the need to align academic curricula with industry requirements to enhance the employability of university graduates. He noted that ICCI is proactively conducting practical training sessions and capacity-building programs to equip fresh graduates with relevant market-oriented skills.

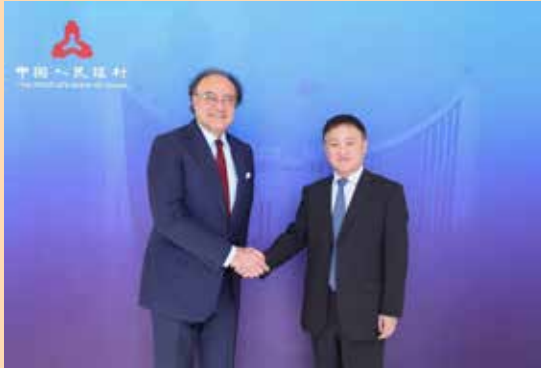
He assured the delegation that ICCI will continue to champion the cause of women entrepreneurs and young professionals by offering institutional support, advocating for enabling policies, and creating networking and growth opportunities. The women entrepreneurs appreciated ICCI's inclusive initiatives and called for stronger industry-academia linkages, improved access to finance, and continuous capacity development to help women excel in Pakistan's dynamic economic environment.—DNA

India backs Myanmar military's election plan, state media says

India will send teams to monitor a general election in war-torn Myanmar that is scheduled to start in December, Myanmar state media said on Monday, as New Delhi signals support for a vote that has already been derided by critics as a sham. Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in China, a rare international engagement for the general who had largely been shunned by foreign leaders since leading a coup in 2021. "At the meeting, they exchanged views on measures to ensure peace and stability in the border regions of both countries, trade promotion, enhancement of friendship and cooperation," the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported. The military's ouster of an elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi 4-1/2-years ago, on a pretext of election fraud, triggered a devastating civil war that has engulfed large parts of the impoverished Southeast Asia nation.—APP

Aurangzeb advances Pak-China financial coop

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held important meetings in Beijing with Dr. Pan Gongsheng, Governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), and Mr. Liao Lin, Chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). During his meeting with the Governor of the People's Bank of China, the Finance Minister expressed deep appreciation for China's longstanding political, diplomatic, and economic support to Pakistan. He briefed the Governor on Pakistan's recent economic performance, the government's reform agenda, and the positive outlook reflected in improved international credit ratings. The Minister acknowledged the crucial role of the PBOC in supporting Pakistan through multilateral engagements and in strengthening financial cooperation between the two countries. He underscored the importance of deepening financial integration and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



In his meeting with the Chairman of ICBC Mr Liao Lin, the Finance Minister conveyed Pakistan's gratitude for ICBC's continued support in development financing, commercial facilities, and the refinancing of existing obligations. He emphasized that ICBC's strong presence in Pakistan reflects the deepening financial and economic partnership between the two countries. The Minister further discussed prospects for enhanced cooperation in investment, trade financing, and Pakistan's forthcoming initiatives in financial diversification. The Finance Minister underlined that Pakistan's economic reform programme is designed to deliver long-term stability, resilience, and sustainable growth. He emphasized that partnerships with Chinese financial institutions are not only vital for meeting immediate financing needs but are also integral to Pakistan's broader strategy of diversification, financial innovation, and regional integration. He highlighted that new initiatives, such as accessing the Chinese onshore markets, will help open fresh avenues for investment, strengthen market confidence, and align Pakistan's financial system more closely with regional dynamics. Both sides agreed that the Pakistan-China economic partnership has entered a new phase, with opportunities to deepen cooperation across banking, investment, and capital markets. The Finance Minister stressed that Pakistan is determined to consolidate these opportunities by creating an enabling environment for investment, building resilient financial structures, and pursuing reforms that expand the scope of bilateral cooperation. Senator Aurangzeb reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a forward-looking partnership with China, where financial cooperation will serve as a cornerstone for broader economic engagement. —DNA

Pak, Bahrain vow to cement military-to-military engagement

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Staff of Bahrain Defence Force Lieutenant General Thiab Sager Abdullah Al Nuaimi called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in Islamabad today. The meeting focused on key areas of mutual interest and exploring avenues of enhanced cooperation between the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to sustained military-to-military engagement, emphasizing joint training and collective growth as a unified team. Upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to Lieutenant General Thiab Sager Abdullah Al Nuaimi. The Air Chief extended a gracious welcome to the distinguished guests and highlighted that Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy deep-rooted religious and historic bonds, which are reflected in the exemplary military to military relationships between the two countries.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff reiterated his resolve to further expand the bilateral military cooperation, particularly in the domains of joint training and

knowledge-sharing initiatives. He further emphasized that Pakistan deeply values its strong diplomatic and defence ties with Bahrain, which are firmly anchored in

shared commitment of both countries on regional peace, security and stability. The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel



and commended the remarkable strides made by Pakistan Air Force, particularly in indigenization and technological advancement.

He expressed his earnest desire to gain deeper insight into PAF's complete methodology of Multi Domain warfare, with the aim of learning from its rich operational experience. The visiting dignitary also expressed interest in initiating joint training programs for Bahraini pilots and engineers at all levels. Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence Force was highly appreciative of PAF's indigenization efforts and particularly commended the role of National Aerospace Science & Technology Park in spearheading innovation and building advanced indigenous capabilities. Later, the dignitary visited National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF Cyber Command, where he was briefed on the operational capabilities of Pakistan Air Force.—DNA

Gold price ups by Rs 3,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 3,300 and was traded at Rs 370,700 on Monday against its sale at Rs 367,400 the previous day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 2,829 to Rs 317,815 from Rs 314,986, whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs 2,594 to Rs 291,341 from Rs 288,747. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs 101 and Rs 87 to trade at Rs 4,303 and Rs 3,689. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$33 to \$3,480 from \$3,447, whereas the rates of silver in international market rose by \$1.01 to \$40.70 from \$39.69, the Association reported.—APP

EU chief's plane hit by suspected Russian GPS jamming

BRUSSELS: A plane carrying EU chief Ursula von der Leyen was hit by GPS jamming as it headed to land in Bulgaria on Sunday, Brussels said Monday, alleging Russia was thought to be behind the incident. The European Commission said Bulgarian authorities suspected the disruption "was due to blatant interference" from Moscow but it was not clear if the chartered flight was deliberately targeted. "We can indeed confirm that there was GPS jamming," Commission spokeswoman Arianna Podesta told a press conference in Brussels. The aircraft landed safely at Plovdiv International Airport, in the south of the country, without having to change route. Commission president von der Leyen, 66, was in Bulgaria as part of a seven-country tour of "front-line" European Union states which, sitting on the 27-nation bloc's eastern flank, are more exposed to Russian hybrid threats. The region has experienced "a lot of such jamming and spoofing activities," the commission said, adding it has sanctioned several companies believed to be involved.—APP

Bangladesh leader warns 'extremely dangerous' if polls derailed

DHAKA: Bangladesh's leader has warned that any deviation from planned elections would be "extremely dangerous," as violent political rivalries deepen a year after the overthrow of longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The warning comes after protests in the South Asian nation, which left a key leader hospitalized, with parties vying for power ahead of the first elections since the uprising. Arguments between parties have escalated, including over who will be able to contest in the polls, scheduled for February, as well as the bid by interim leader Muhammad Yunus to push through a raft of democratic reforms. "The chief adviser said there is no alternative to an election," Yunus' press secretary Shaiful Alam said late Sunday. "Any deviation from it would be extremely dangerous for the country." Yunus, the 85-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner who has been leading the caretaker government as its chief adviser since the August 2024 uprising, held rounds of meetings with key parties on Sunday. A key recent source of contention is whether the Jatiya Party, seen as a former ally of Hasina, should be allowed to take part in elections. On Friday, violent clashes erupted in Dhaka when the Gono Odhikar Parishad party held a rally demanding it be banned. Gono Odhikar Parishad party leader Nurul Haque Nur was badly beaten when the police and military sought to stop the rally. Jamaat-Islami, the main Islamist party in the Muslim-majority nation of 170 million people, has also demanded Jatiya be excluded. Hasina's Awami League has already been banned. Violent protests were reported in universities, including at Chittagong University, where around a hundred students were injured on Saturday. Parties are yet to agree on efforts by Yunus to create a charter for democratic reforms.—APP

Briefs

Trump declares victory over crime in Washington

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has announced that the National Guard managed to rid Washington of crime in less than two weeks. "DC is now a crime free zone, in just 12 days," he wrote on the Truth Social network. On August 11, Trump announced that National Guard troops would be sent to Washington to tackle rising crime. The US leader said he would place the city's police department under direct federal control and that the armed forces could be involved in maintaining order in Washington if necessary. On August 22, Trump said he was ready to use federal government resources, including active-duty military, to deal with crime in other major US cities like Chicago and New York. - Agencies

Steps being taken for dignified return of Afghan refugees

KOHAT: In light of the orders of the government, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General Hamid Iqbal has met with the leaders of the Afghan refugees at the Ghamkol camp to discuss issue of dignified return of Afghan refugees. He clarified that, as per the state policy, the process of return of Afghan refugees would be completed in a dignified and honorable manner. The ADC urged the Afghan elders to fully cooperate with the district administration so that the return process could be completed smoothly, organized, and as soon as possible. He said that the district administration would provide all possible facilities so that this process would be completed smoothly. - APP

DPM Dar hails Pakistan-China 'all-weather' ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar reaffirmed that Pakistan's "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" with China is firmly anchored in mutual trust, shared objectives, and long-term strategic alignment, China Economic Net reported. In a statement posted on his X account, DPM Dar emphasized that Pakistan deeply values Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision and initiatives for global peace, development, and multilateral cooperation. He underscored that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has evolved into a pivotal Eurasian platform, driving progress in critical areas including regional security, trade, energy, connectivity, and cultural exchanges. The DPM added that Pakistan looks forward to "constructive high-level engagements" not only with the Chinese leadership but also with the heads of other SCO member states during the summit.

Rs1.7 billion timber scam unearthed in KP

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: A massive timber scam worth Rs1.7 billion has been uncovered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), with authorities seizing 2.3 million cubic feet of illegally felled wood. Investigations have implicated 140 officers and officials, against whom show cause notices have been issued and charge sheets prepared. The provincial government has also referred some cases to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Anti-Corruption Department.

Xi and Putin round on West at regional summit in China

Xi told the SCO leaders, including Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that the global international situation was becoming more "chaotic and intertwined"

TIANJIN: Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin took turns Monday to swipe at the West during a gathering of Eurasian leaders for a showpiece summit aimed at putting Beijing front and centre of regional relations. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), comprising China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus, is touted as a non-Western style of collaboration and seeks to be an alternative to traditional alliances. Xi told the SCO leaders, including Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that the global international situation was becoming more "chaotic and intertwined". The Chinese leader also slammed "bullying behaviour" from certain countries - a veiled reference to the United States. "The security and development tasks facing member states have become even more challenging," he added in his address in the northern port city of Tianjin. "Looking to the future, with the world undergoing turbulence and transformation, we must continue to follow the Shanghai spirit... and better perform the functions of the organisation," Xi said. Putin used his speech to defend Russia's Ukraine offensive, blaming the West for triggering the three-and-a-half year conflict that has killed tens of thousands and devastated much of eastern Ukraine. "This crisis wasn't triggered by Russia's attack on Ukraine, but was a result of a coup in Ukraine, which was supported and provoked by the West," Putin said. "The second reason for the crisis is the West's constant attempts to drag Ukraine into NATO." Earlier,



leaders from the 10 SCO countries stood on a red carpet and posed for a group photo. Xi, Putin and Modi were seen on live footage chatting, the three leaders flanked by their translators. Modi and Putin, who were photographed holding hands, held talks in the afternoon. Russian state media reported the pair spent nearly an hour talking "face-to-face" in Putin's armoured presidential car before the start of their official bilateral meeting. "Conversations with him are always insightful," Modi wrote on X along with a photograph of them travelling in the

car. In opening comments before their meeting, Modi praised the "special and privileged strategic partnership" with Moscow. "India and Russia have stood shoulder to shoulder, even in the toughest situations," he said. "Our close cooperation not just important for our people but for global peace, stability and prosperity is very important." On the conflict in Ukraine, Modi said India wanted both sides to "end the conflict as soon as possible and to find stable peace". The SCO summit, which also involves 16 more countries as observers or "dialogue

partners", kicked off on Sunday, days before a massive military parade in the capital Beijing to mark 80 years since the end of World War II. Putin touched down in Tianjin on Sunday with an entourage of senior politicians and business representatives. Xi held a flurry of back-to-back bilateral meetings with leaders including Lukashenko - one of Putin's staunch allies - and Modi, who is on his first visit to China since 2018. Modi told Xi that India was committed to taking "forward our ties on the basis of mutual trust, dignity and sensitivity".

The world's two most populous nations are intense rivals, competing for influence across South Asia, and fought a deadly border clash in 2020. A thaw began last October, when Modi met Xi for the first time in five years at a summit in Russia.

Their rapprochement deepened as US President Donald Trump pressured both Asian economic giants with trade tariffs. China and Russia have sometimes promoted the SCO as an alternative to organisations such as NATO. This year's summit is the first since Trump returned to the White House. More than 20 leaders, including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, are attending the bloc's largest meeting since its founding in 2001.

Putin is expected to hold talks on Monday with Erdogan and Pezeshkian respectively about the Ukraine conflict and Tehran's nuclear programme. Many of the assembled dignitaries will be in Beijing on Wednesday to watch the military parade, which will also be attended by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. - Agencies

Indonesia tightens security after deadly protests

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities ramped up security Monday after six people were killed in unrest over lavish perks for lawmakers that escalated into violent anger against the nation's police force. The deadly protests, which began last week over MP housing allowances nearly 10 times the minimum wage in the capital Jakarta, have forced President Prabowo Subianto to make a U-turn over the measures. Demonstrations began peacefully, but turned violent against the nation's elite paramilitary police unit after footage showed one of its teams running over 21-year-old delivery driver Affan Kurniawan late Thursday. Protests have since spread from Jakarta to other major cities, in the worst unrest since Prabowo took power, with more rallies planned Monday across Indonesia's vast archipelago. Police set up checkpoints across the capital on Monday, while officers and the military conducted city-wide patrols and deployed snipers in key locations. Demonstrators were expected to start gathering outside parliament in Jakarta and at the national police headquarters. The capital's police force paraded a convoy of armoured cars and motorbikes outside parliament late Sunday, in a show of force as they attempt to warn off protesters. Schools and universities in Jakarta were holding classes

online until at least Tuesday, and civil servants based in Jakarta were asked to work from home. The crisis prompted Prabowo to cancel a trip to China this week for a military parade commemorating the end of World War II. The protests are the biggest and most violent of his presidency, a key test less than a year into his rule. Defence Minister Sjafrudin Sjamsuddin warned Sunday that the security forces would take "firm action" against "rioters and looters", after the finance minister's house was pillaged. Several lawmakers have reportedly had their houses ransacked in recent days. As well as Jakarta, there have also been protests in cities including Yogyakarta, Bandung, Semarang, and Surabaya in Java, and Medan in North Sumatra province. At least three people were killed after a fire started by protesters at a council building in the eastern city of Makassar. Another victim died in Makassar on Friday after he was beaten by a mob on suspicion that he was an intelligence officer, local disaster agency official Muhammad Fadli Tahar told AFP. The Amikom Yogyakarta University confirmed the death of its student Rheza Sedy Pratama in protests, but the circumstances around his death remain unclear. - Agencies



TIANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization on 1st September 2025. - DNA

US suspends visas for Palestinian passport holders

NEW YORK: The Trump Administration has suspended nearly all types of nonimmigrant visas for Palestinian passport holders, The New York Times reported Sunday night. The blanket suspension marks an escalation from earlier restrictions on Palestinians seeking to enter the U.S. Last week, the State Department also said it would not issue visas to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and about 80 officials from the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to attend the annual U.N. General Assembly in New York next month. The policy, which further aligns the Trump administration to the radical right wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was issued in an Aug. 18 cable from the State Department to all U.S. embassies and consulates, temporarily suspends visas for medical treatment, university studies, visits to friends or relatives, and business, according to the Times. It is not clear how long the suspension will remain in place. The move came after France, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia announced plans to recognize Palestinian statehood at the upcoming General Assembly, joining 147 countries that have recognized Palestine as a sovereign state. The State Department imposed sanctions on the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian Authority on July 31, denying their members US visas. In contrast, Washington recently lifted sanctions on illegal Israeli settlers accused of attacking Palestinians. Israel has killed nearly 63,500 Palestinians in its genocidal war in Gaza since October 2023. The Israeli military campaign has devastated the enclave, which is facing famine. - Agencies

More than 140 feared dead after migrant ship sinks near Spain

SPAIN: More than 140 people were feared dead on Friday after a migrant ship bound for Spain's Canary Islands sank off the coast of Mauritania, according to Spanish media reports. Mauritanian authorities told Spanish news agency EFE that at least 70 bodies had been recovered, along with 17 survivors. Spanish NGO Walking Borders reported that about 160 people were believed to be traveling on the ship. "This is one of the biggest tragedies of the summer," Helena Maleno, head of Walking Borders, told Spanish broadcaster Cadena Ser. The shipwreck occurred about 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott on Thursday, according to EFE, though the vessel had departed from The Gambia. The Canary Islands migration route - which involves crossing the Atlantic from northwest Africa to the Spanish archipelago - is considered one of the deadliest in the world. - DNA

Putin praises Turkey's mediation efforts on Ukraine

TIANJIN: Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Turkey's mediation attempts around the Ukraine war at a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in China on Monday. "I'm confident that Turkey's special role in these matters will continue to be in demand," the Russian president said during talks with Erdogan on the sidelines of SCO summit.

Putin added that the three rounds of direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul have made some progress on the humanitarian track. The talks have failed to yield a breakthrough over Russia's three-and-a-half-year invasion and resulted only in exchanges of prisoners and soldiers' bodies.

The warring sides have radically different positions and Ukraine has accused Russia of sending low-level officials with no real decision-making power to the Istanbul talks. Russia has called on Ukraine to effectively cede four regions that Moscow claims to have annexed, a demand Kyiv has called unacceptable.

US President Donald Trump has called for a meeting between Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, but Moscow said it was too early to do so before key issues are resolved. Russia's full-scale invasion, launched in February 2022, has ravaged swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine, killing tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians. - Agencies

PHC hears 11 petitions on missing persons

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday heard 11 petitions regarding missing persons. The hearing was conducted by Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhal. During the proceedings, the Assistant Attorney General, Additional Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and focal persons from the Home Department and police appeared before the court. A female petitioner informed the court that she had approached the police station to lodge an FIR, but the police refused to register the case. The court questioned why the Station House Officer (SHO) failed to conduct an inquiry if the individual was missing, adding that at least a brief report could have been prepared. The Additional Advocate General stated that all reports are compiled and forwarded to the Home Department, which often leads to delays. The court issued notices to the federal and provincial governments, as well as all other relevant parties, directing them to submit their reports. The hearing was adjourned until September 12, 2025. - APP

Zelensky to meet European leaders in Paris

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will meet European leaders on Thursday in Paris, a source told AFP, amid an international push to broker an end to Russia's three-and-a-half-year invasion. "We're planning such a meeting" between Zelenskyy and European leaders, the source said Monday, adding that US President Donald Trump "is not so far expected to be there." The source said the main topic of the Paris talks will be security guarantees for Ukraine and "promoting diplomacy, because the Russians are wriggling out again" of the efforts to end the war. The issue of Western-backed security guarantees for Ukraine if a truce comes into force has been dominated the diplomatic flurry around Ukraine in recent weeks. Kyiv wants such guarantees to deter any future Russian attacks. A European peace-keeping force has been floated publicly among leaders as a potential security arrangement for when the conflict ends. Trump has indicated the United States could back up any European peace-keeping plan, but would not deploy US soldiers to Ukraine. - Agencies

Pakistan set to launch first national anti-cancer vaccination drive

Drive aims to prevent cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women in Pakistan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will launch its first-ever national HPV vaccination campaign from September 15 to 27, marking a major step in the country's efforts to prevent cervical cancer - the second most common cancer among women nationwide. The campaign will target around 13 million girls, aged 9 to 14, across Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. A single-dose vaccine will be administered, which provides lifelong protection. The DOPASI Foundation, in partnership with FDI and with support from Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, convened a strategic workshop in Islamabad to mobilise support

for a "cervical cancer-free Pakistan." The event brought together health experts, government officials, and civil society representatives. Participants emphasised that doctors, private hospitals, and non-governmental organisations would play a decisive role in the campaign's success. Dr Farhaj Uddin, Programme Manager for the HPV campaign at DOPASI Foundation, said the initiative focuses on advocacy and community mobilisation to dispel myths and misconceptions. "We are committed to supporting the government in reaching every eligible girl and in building public confidence around this vaccine," he stressed. Highlighting the role of medical professionals, Dr Khuram Shahzad, Director Technical at FDI, said that the public

trusts doctors more than anyone else when it comes to vaccine safety. "Their voice is the most effective tool to counter myths and misconceptions," he noted. Dr Irshad Ali Jokhio, Director General of Health Services CDA, announced that the HPV vaccine would be added to Pakistan's routine immunisation programme. Meanwhile, Dr Rozeena Khalid of WHO reminded participants that cervical cancer is now claiming more Pakistani women each year than breast cancer. "Vaccinating adolescent girls is the only way to reduce this preventable disease," she said. Dr Saima Khursheed Zubair added that, although cervical cancer affects adult women, vaccination before the age of 15 is essential to ensure lifelong protection.

Speakers stressed that Pakistan has set an ambitious target to vaccinate 18 million girls over the next three years. This goal can only be achieved through the active engagement of civil society and healthcare providers. Participants also acknowledged the DOPASI Foundation's leadership and praised its efforts in awareness-building and community outreach.

In his closing remarks, Dr Bilal Arshad, CEO of Ali Medical Hospital, said the campaign's outcome ultimately depends on doctors. "Their advocacy will decide whether Pakistan can meet its target and save millions of lives in the years to come," he said. With this campaign, Pakistan will join 149 other countries that have already introduced the HPV vaccine.