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between Pak, Türkiye**

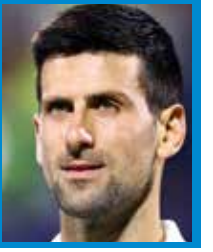
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**Hanif asks Asif
to resign if has
differences**

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**Novak sets up
Alcaraz in US
open semi-final**

Detailed News On Page-06



Sutlej and Tawi rivers

India issues yet another flood alert

Panjand along the Chenab is expected to experience a "very high flood" starting today, while the Indus River at Guddu Barrage is expected to reach a "high to very high" flood level between 6 and 7 September

DNA / STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Indian High Commission to Pakistan has communicated about a "high flood" on the Sutlej and Tawi rivers, a water ministry notification says. This morning, the Indian High Commission warned of "high flood" at the following locations:

Sutlej, Harike below
Sutlej, Ferozepur below
Tawi, occupied Jammu

According to the latest data by the Sindh Rain and Flood Emergency Monitoring Cell, Guddu Barrage recorded 354,224 cusecs of water outflow, continuing with its trend of "medium flood", with water level expected to rise. Meanwhile, both Sukkur and Kotri Barrage continue to remain in "low flood" with the outflowing water levels at 250,875 cusecs and 237,999 cusecs, respectively.

Low flood persisted at Panjand as well, with the outflowing water level recorded at 169,207 cusecs. The water level at Sukkur Barrage is expected to rise, while levels at both Kotri

PTI blames govt for not providing relief

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: PTI's Salman Akram slams Punjab govt for 'looking elsewhere', foreign trips as people await help PTI Secretary General Salman Akram has slammed the Punjab government for not providing adequate relief to flood-affected people in the province, displaced along with their cattle. "Every government official is getting his photos taken at that one post, while the entire area covering thousands of acres is flooded." He added that people with their cattle were left without roofs and without any help. "Our agriculture is our economy's backbone," he stressed, assailing the government for "looking elsewhere, making trips to Japan and making plans in Murree".

and Panjand showed a "steady" trend. According to the latest information from the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Ganda Singh Wala, along the Sutlej, will continue to be in an "exceptionally high flood" over the week. Panjand along the Chenab is

expected to experience a "very high flood" starting today, while the Indus River at Guddu Barrage is expected to reach a "high to very high" flood level between 6 and 7 September.

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Akhtar Mengal unhurt

Death toll from suicide blast at BNP rally in Quetta rises to 15

Hamza Shafqaat says there's security threat from 22 individuals who have entered province with likely suicide bombers

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: The death toll from the suicide blast at Balochistan National Party's (BNP) rally on Quetta's Sariab Road has risen to 15, Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar said on Wednesday. With regards to the injured, Kakar said that out of the 38 wounded in the explosion, eight are currently being treated at the trauma centre, and an investigation committee has been formed to probe the incident.

"The suicide bomber could not reach the rally venue due to extremely tight security arrangements," the minister said. A day earlier, the blast ripped through a busy area near Quetta's Shahwani Stadium in the evening, leaving several of the wounded in critical condition. With the Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti directing the authorities to shift the

Continued on Page 06

President, PM condemn deadly blast at Quetta political rally

President, PM Strongly Condemn Quetta Blast Targeting BNP Rally, Vow Action Against Terrorists

DNA

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING: The President and the Prime Minister on Wednesday issued strong condemnations following a devastating explosion near the Shahwani Stadium in Quetta,

Continued on Page 06

PTI divided over Kalabagh Dam after Gandapur voices support

Former NA speaker Asad Qaiser terms KP CM's support for Kalabagh Dam as his personal opinion

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) showed signs of division over the long-standing and politically contentious Kalabagh Dam project, as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur publicly reiterated his support for its construction. Speaking to the media, Gandapur said: "I am in favour of the Kalabagh Dam. It should be built. Build consensus, address the concerns of the provinces, and construct the Kalabagh Dam." He also urged a national dialogue on the project, urging the media to play a constructive role in initiating debate. "Think not in terms of politics, but of the state. Pakistan needs the Kalabagh Dam. Smaller dams cannot be an alternative to the Kalabagh Dam. Initiate a debate on national consensus regarding the Kalabagh Dam. The

media should help. Personally, I am in favour of creating more provinces, but we must see whether they can stand on their own feet," Gandapur added. KP CM further said that the issue in Kalabagh is limited to one district and belongs to the Awami National Party (ANP). "Aimal Wali said, 'our generations will not allow the dam to be built. The Kalabagh Dam will be built over our dead bodies', but I would like to tell Aimal Wali that this is Pakistan's issue. What do the dead bodies and generations have to do with it?" Gandapur also supported the creation of new provinces, saying that governance would improve with smaller provincial units. "Small units are formed in countries around the world. Pakistan is the only country that is running on four provinces with such a large population," he said. Regarding dams, he said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is going to build two dams on

its own. "Think about why Sindh repeatedly floods. Is the water allocated to Sindh being fully utilised? If Sindh believes it will be left thirsty, let's sit together and decide. Everything can be resolved. If we sit with Sindh, we will give them a larger share of our water. Sindh's politicians are constrained by their politics." However, PTI central leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser did not really concur with KP chief minister's support for the Kalabagh Dam, and termed it as his personal opinion. He said that Gandapur's comments should not be considered as party policy. "I wanted to make it clear that it was Ali Amin Khan's personal opinion to support the Kalabagh dam as it's the party's (PTI) policy. We don't consider that we need Kalabagh dam, and small dams can be constructed," Qaiser said in a statement that he posted on his 'X' handle.

68th NATIONAL DAY OF MALAYSIA

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest State Minister for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, High Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Azhar bin Mazlan, heads of states of the ASEAN countries and others cutting cake to celebrate the 68th National Day of Malaysia. The event was held at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. DNA

PM directs to replicate China quality standards

DNA

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to establish simple, robust and sustainable infrastructure at Islamabad's under-construction hospitals, including Jinnah Medical Complex, to deliver high-quality medical facilities, modeled on China's standards.

Picture and more news on back page

The prime minister, during his visit to Beijing's Anzhen Hospital, instructed to prioritise the high-quality facilities at Pakistan's under-construction hospitals, on the pattern of the Chinese system.

Continued on Page 06

ATC grants bail to Imran nephew in May 9 case

No evidence produced against Shahrez, defence tells court

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Wednesday granted post-arrest bail to Shahrez Khan, nephew of incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan, in a case related to his alleged involvement in May 9, 2023, riots. Earlier in the day, the ATC reserved its verdict on the bail petition filed by Shahrez — son of PTI founder's sister

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Business potential

US envoy hails Shehbaz govt economic reforms

Ms. Baker says Pakistan's GDP is about \$412 billion, ranking 38th in the world," she stated, "but Goldman Sachs projects it could reach \$3.3 trillion by 2050, putting it among the top 10 to 15 economies globally

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD – US Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) Natalie Baker addressed a webinar hosted by the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) on September 2, urging American companies to explore and capitalize on the significant investment opportunities in Pakistan. The event, which brought together U.S. and Pakistani business leaders, underscored the strategic advantages and evolving economic landscape of the South Asian nation.

In her remarks, CDA Baker commended the Sharif government's ongoing economic reforms, which have been crucial in creating a more investor-friendly environment. She highlighted Pakistan's demographic

strengths, noting its status as the fifth-largest country in the world with a population of 250 million. With 64 percent of its population under the age of 30, Pakistan boasts one of the world's largest and youngest consumer markets. "Pakistan's GDP is about \$412 billion, ranking 38th in the world," she stated, "but Goldman Sachs projects it could reach \$3.3 trillion by 2050, putting it among the top 10 to 15 economies globally." The CDA identified several key sectors ripe for

Continued on Page 06

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Briefs

Six killed in firing incident in Lower Kurram

APP

PESHAWAR: At-least six people were killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on a vehicle in Lower Kurram on Wednesday, police said. According to police, the vehicle was traveling from Para Chamakni to Kohat when four armed men ambushed it in the Ahmad Jani Kali area. All six passengers died on the spot. Police said the area was cordoned off immediately after the incident and a search operation was launched to trace the attackers.

Heavy rain lashes North India

DNA

NEW DELHI: Flooding across northern India killed at least five people on Wednesday, officials said, with more thunderstorms expected and local media reporting that 10,000 people have been evacuated from the river banks in capital Delhi. The monsoon season in India has been particularly intense this year, killing at least 130 people in August alone in north India, wiping out villages and destroying infrastructure. The latest round of flooding has hit northern Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab, where the Chenab and Tawi rivers have risen above the danger mark at several spots. The swollen rivers have triggered landslides and damaged many roads, disconnecting parts of the mountainous regions of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and Himachal from the rest of India.



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept01/Libya Revolution Day

Sept01/Tanzania Defence day

Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day

Sept07/Brazil Independence Day

Sept09/DPR Korea National Day

Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day

Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day

Sept16/Mexico National Day

Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day


Sept18/Chile National Day

Sept21/Malta Independence Day

Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

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Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16


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Motorway Police.....9226044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4


RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43


CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Ina Lepel planted a tree at the KP House. KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was also present on the occasion.

Rights minister orders probe into alleged rape, abortion of Rawalpindi student by principal

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Human Rights Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday ordered an “immediate and transparent” investigation into the alleged rape and forced abortion of a Grade 10 student in Rawalpindi by the principal of a private academy. The student, a resident of Khayaban-i-Sir Syed of Rawalpindi’s Pirwadhai town, had lodged a first information report with the police on Monday, alleging that her academy’s principal raped her multiple times and forced her to have an abortion. “The federal minister for human rights has directed an immediate and transparent probe of the incident,” said a statement issued Wednesday by Tarar’s office. The minister ordered the immediate arrest of the suspect and sought a report on the incident. “The provision of justice to the affected student should be ensured under all circumstances,” Tarar was quoted as saying. In her complaint, the victim alleged that the principal, who was childless, had offered to marry her while she was studying in Grade 10. She reportedly told him to approach her parents regarding the matter. She further said that the principal started coming closer to her and assured her that he would help her get good marks in the matriculation examination, convincing her to have physical relations with him. The complainant claimed that the man called her into his office and raped her. After a few months, she informed him that she was pregnant, but instead of marrying her, he gave her medicine for an abortion. As per the FIR, the victim alleged that the accused continued raping her from time to time and again made her pregnant. However, when she insisted on marriage, he refused and began subjecting her to torture.

AIOU, Turkish Institute partner to boost Turkish language learning

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Türkiye’s Yunus Emre Institute joined hands to launch Turkish language courses, aiming to provide Pakistani students with excellent opportunities to learn the Turkish language under a well-structured and standardized curriculum. The Turkish Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here at the AIOU. Under the MoU, both institutions would jointly prepare Turkish language courses for the Matric, FA, and BA levels. The agreement was signed by AIOU Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Director of Yunus Emre Institute, Professor Dr. Halil Tokar, said a press release on Wednesday. Speaking at the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that this collaboration would further strengthen the educational and cultural ties between Pakistan and Türkiye and provide students with a rare opportunity to learn the Turkish language. “Along with national and regional languages, the teaching of international languages is also a vital need of the time and the university is working to include more languages in its curricula,” he added. Professor Dr. Halil Tokar, in his address said that teaching Turkish would further reinforce the relations between the two countries. According to him, Turkish is a valuable linguistic and cultural heritage and its promotion in Pakistan could open new doors of cooperation and friendship. Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, said that Pakistan and Türkiye shared a centuries-old bright legacy and through this academic collaboration, this bond would be transferred to the new generation.

Misbah briefs Thai envoy on ISC

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador and Advisor to the Chairman Senate, Misbah Khar, on Wednesday briefed the Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan, Rongvudhi Virabutr, on the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers’ Conference (ISC). During the meeting, Ms. Khar said that the ISC currently comprised on 45 Speakers of national parliaments and that, in the recent elections held in Malaysia, Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gillani was unanimously elected as its first President. She also extended a formal invitation to the Speaker of the Thai Parliament to attend the upcoming ISC session, scheduled for November 11–12, 2025, in Islamabad, under the theme Peace, Security and Development. The discussion also touched on women’s leadership and empowerment Ms. Khar underlined Pakistan’s commitment to promoting women in decision-making roles, stressing that global platforms like the ISC can amplify women’s voices in parliamentary diplomacy. She emphasised the need to encourage women to enter the workforce and contribute actively to society. The Thai envoy welcomed the initiative and expressed support for efforts that enable women to assume leadership roles. In response, Ms. Khar assured him of Pakistan’s full support in this shared objective, adding that the ISC must be used to highlight the voices of women—particularly those facing suppression—and to create sustainable opportunities for their livelihoods. She further noted that the Senate of Pakistan has introduced legislation to strengthen women’s empowerment and ensure their meaningful participation in national development. Ambassador Virabutr affirmed his commitment to encouraging greater efforts toward advancing women’s leadership, while Ms. Khar reiterated her readiness to collaborate closely on initiatives that enhance parliamentary cooperation and gender equality.—APP

Literary session with Iftikhar Arif

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF), under the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, hosted a significant literary event titled “Dialogue”. The event took place at the Ahmed Faraz Auditorium, said a press release on Wednesday. The session featured an in-depth conversation with internationally acclaimed poet, scholar, cultural icon, and a distinguished figure in Urdu literature, Iftikhar Arif. The event host, notable poet and writer Salman Basit, introduced Iftikhar Arif with a concise yet comprehensive overview of his life and achievements. The conversation explored various aspects of Arif’s early struggles, his perseverance, and the dedication that led him to literary prominence. His journey, marked by hardship and success, reflected a life devoted to literature, culture, and the pursuit of truth through poetry. Throughout the session, Iftikhar Arif offered profound insights on a range of topics including national and international literature, linguistics, society and the individual, realism and imagination, literary history, and Islamic heritage. He also shared thoughtful insights on classical and Sufi poets such as Rumi, Amir Khusrau, Hali, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Mir Taqi Mir, Ghalib, Daagh Dehlvi, Allama Iqbal, Nasir Kazmi, and Faiz Ahmed Faiz, as well as contemporary poets and writers. A special Q&A session was held where poets, writers, and audience members engaged directly with Iftikhar Arif. He responded to their questions with eloquence and warmth. At the audience’s request, Arif recited select pieces from his poetry, creating an enchanting atmosphere that captivated the attendees. His recital was met with enthusiastic applause and admiration. Managing Director of the NBF, Dr. Kamran Jahangir, expressed gratitude to the chief guest, distinguished participants, and the audience. He also highlighted NBF’s ongoing initiatives to promote reading culture and literary activities across the country. The event drew a large and distinguished audience, including prominent poets, writers, intellectuals, and literature enthusiasts from Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The auditorium remained filled throughout the session, reflecting the strong literary interest in the twin cities. The event was gracefully moderated by Naziah Rehman, who effectively managed the flow of the program.—DNA

Ethiopian ambassador lauds PM Sharif’s leadership

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Jamal Baker Abdullah on Wednesday conveyed his sincere condolences and resolute support to the victims of the catastrophic floods in Pakistan, while also recognizing Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif’s remarkable leadership in launching the Green Pakistan movement. In an exclusive interview with PTV News, Ethiopian Ambassador highlighted Pakistan’s immense challenges in the face of climate change, particularly the devastating floods and cloudbursts that have left thousands affected. He expressed deep sympathy for the victims, stressing that Ethiopia stands with Pakistan in this critical time of need. The Ambassador emphasized that these extreme weather events are a stark reminder of the urgent need for global action on climate change. He also commended Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif’s leadership, especially the Green Pakistan initiative, as a vital step toward mitigating future disasters and protecting the environment. Dr. Abdullah called for international solidarity to support Pakistan’s recovery efforts and strengthen resilience against the growing threats posed by climate change. He reiterated that only through global cooperation can we hope to reduce the impact of future climate-related disasters.

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Wednesday urged the nation to put aside partisan differences and rally behind a unified effort to tackle Balochistan’s pressing energy issues. Addressing a research dissemination event on rural electrification in Balochistan he stated “At this pivotal moment, we must rise above political divisions and work collectively to ensure no province is left behind as energy gap in Balochistan is a national concern that demands unified action and shared responsibility.” He underscored that the development of Balochistan is crucial to the overall progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He highlighted the government’s commitment through the National Electricity Plan 2023 and the Alternative Renewable Energy Policy 2019, which aim to achieve universal electrification and increase renewable.—DNA

Women break silence on inheritance injustices

ISLAMABAD: At the Khuli Kacheri organized by the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) at the Bara Kahu Revenue Service Center here Wednesday, women came forward with heart-wrenching accounts of being denied their rightful inheritance and property rights. A woman shared how her father had quietly transferred property to her brothers, without even informing the sisters or their mother, leaving them excluded from what was rightfully theirs. Another recounted that although the mutation had been completed in her wife’s name, she was still being denied possession of the property. A young daughter revealed the pain of seeing her uncle illegally occupy her late mother’s share of the inheritance, and with no brothers to stand beside them, she and her sisters felt silenced and powerless. These stories painted a grim picture of systemic deprivation, where women continue to struggle for rights already guaranteed to them under the law. Yet, at the Khuli Kacheri, they found not just a platform to speak but also immediate institutional support. FOSPAH, under the leadership of Ms. Fauzia Viqar, in close collaboration with the Revenue Department and law enforcement, ensured that grievances were addressed on the spot. Revenue officials, including Qaiser Mehmood and Ch. Ali Javaid verified documents immediately, while DSP Fayyaz Ahmad Khan Shinwari and SHO Rafaqat Hussain Gujjar provided legal guidance and pledged protection against illegal possession. While women’s inheritance issues dominated the proceedings, residents also highlighted pressing community concerns: from garbage piling up to the point of becoming a health hazard, to dispensaries closing far too early, and unchecked encroachments eroding public spaces. FOSPAH has forwarded these complaints to the relevant authorities and will follow up in the coming days. This joint effort demonstrated how cross-departmental collaboration can turn the promise of justice into reality. By uniting federal, revenue, and enforcement institutions under one roof, the Khuli Kacheri created a safe environment where women could break their silence and seek redress against systemic abuse.—DNA

Farewell reference honors to retire professor Abdul Rauf

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8 organized a farewell reference on Wednesday in honor of Professor Abdul Rauf, who retired after serving the Federal Education Department for 32 years and eight months. The event was attended by Prof. Javaid Iqbal Mughal Principal of IMCB H-9, Prof. Athar ul Islam, Principal of IMPC H-8 and a large number of faculty members from various colleges, said a press release. Speakers highlighted Prof. Rauf’s professional dedication, shared fond memories of working with him and praised his contributions to education. They extended best wishes as he enters a new chapter of life beyond his teaching career.—APP

BISP, Hazza Institute partner for skills training of Beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is set to collaborate with the Hazza Institute of Technology to equip its beneficiaries with internationally recognized vocational training under the Benazir Hunarmand Programme. Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, held a meeting on Wednesday with Hazza Institute’s Board Member, Muhammad Saleem Ahmad Ranjha, and Managing Director, Azhar Iqbal Sindhu, at BISP Headquarters to discuss a pilot project for skills development. The proposed initiative will train an initial batch of 50 beneficiaries in construction, hospitality, and healthcare, along with essential soft skills such as workplace ethics, behavior, and personal hygiene. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid stressed the importance of linking skill training with tangible job opportunities both in Pakistan and abroad. “We must ensure that these trainings meet international standards, enabling our beneficiaries to uplift their families and contribute effectively to the workforce,” she remarked. Following the meeting, the BISP chief visited the Hazza Institute of Technology, where she was briefed on its training modules and performance by Azhar Iqbal Sindhu and Saleem Ahmad Ranjha. She also interacted with trainees learning trades including plumbing, electrical work, welding, cyber technology, driving, and Korean language. Encouraging the students, Senator Rubina Khalid said, “You are the ambassadors of Pakistan. Your recognition is your country. Respect your elders, adopt ethics and tolerance, and make your country proud. Despite political or religious affiliations, be united for Pakistan’s progress.” The visit concluded with the presentation of a souvenir to the BISP Chairperson by the Hazza Institute management in acknowledgment of her commitment to skills-based empowerment.—APP

Briefs

Torrential rains wreak havoc in Abbottabad

ISLAMABAD: Torrential rains that lashed Abbottabad and its adjoining areas last night caused widespread disruption, with flash floods and landslides damaging houses, blocking roads, and crippling daily life. According to the local sources, the Harno stream witnessed a dangerous surge, with sand, gravel, and stones blocking fresh-water springs for the last ten days. This has created a severe shortage of drinking water, leaving Harno traders, tourists, and travelers struggling to meet their daily needs. Heavy rainfall also submerged many areas of Abbottabad city, while the main Mansehra Road remained blocked for several hours due to floodwater. Traffic between Abbottabad and Mansehra was badly affected, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded. In several localities, floodwater entered houses, forcing residents to move their belongings to safer places. In Union Council Namal, three houses were damaged in Village Council Majhuwan, while another three houses were affected in Gari village after road-cutting debris slid into the settlements. Fortunately, no loss of life was reported. The local administration and rescue teams have started relief operations, cleared roads and assessed damage in affected villages. Residents have appealed to the authorities for urgent measures to restore clean water supply, strengthen riverbanks, and improve drainage systems in Abbottabad city to prevent further damage during the ongoing monsoon season.—APP

Police nab armed suspect, seize illegal pistol

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, under the guidance of SP/SDPO City Zone and the direct supervision of SDPO Kohsar Circle Zulfiqar Ali, carried out a successful operation and arrested an armed suspect with illegal weapons in the jurisdiction of Kohsar Police Station. An official told APP on Wednesday that SHO Kohsar Police Station Mian Khurram Shehzad, along with Investigating Officer SI Muhammad Akbar and his team, conducted a raid and apprehended the accused Waqas Mahmood, son of Khalid Mahmood, a resident of Street 31/C, Irfanabad, Tramri, Islamabad. He said during the search, police recovered a 30-bore pistol along with five live rounds from the suspect's possession. He said the recovered weapon was taken into custody, and a case (No. 958 dated 02-09-2025) under AO 13/20/65 was registered at Kohsar Police Station. Further investigation is underway to ascertain where and for what purpose the weapon was to be used. He added that the force is strictly implementing a zero-tolerance policy against criminal elements.—APP

A new chapter in Pak, Uzbek Tourism: Envoy

DNA NEWS AGENCY

ISLAMABAD: A vibrant “Uzbekistan: the Pearl of the Silk Road” tourism and cultural show was held in Islamabad, signaling a new era of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. The event, hosted by the Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, aimed to revive the historical “Great Silk Road” ties through modern tourism and cultural exchanges. In his address, Ambassador Tukhtaev emphasized the deep-rooted historical and spiritual connections between the two nations, which once flourished as hubs of trade and learning. He extended a warm invitation to Pakistani visitors to explore Uzbekistan's UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. These cities, he noted,



were once centers of Islamic civilization and continue to inspire with their magnificent mosques and madrasas. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of Ziyarat tourism (pilgrimage tourism), as Uzbekistan is home to the mausoleums of revered Islamic scholars and Sufi saints like Imam al-Bukhari and Bahoudin Naqshband. He stressed

that these sites are a shared civilizational heritage that would particularly appeal to Pakistani travelers. To facilitate this vision, he announced that Uzbekistan Airways is now operating direct flights, with two weekly flights from Tashkent to Lahore and one weekly flight to Islamabad. The ambassador also stated that the Uzbek side is actively



working to expand direct air connections to other major cities in Pakistan, with these flights serving as bridges of friendship, trade, and cooperation. Beyond tourism, Ambassador Tukhtaev encouraged Pakistani tour operators, investors, and business leaders to partner with Uzbekistan in developing joint ventures in hospitality,

transport, and other creative industries. He expressed confidence that with strong political will and direct air links, the future of Uzbekistan-Pakistan tourism relations will continue to grow and flourish. The event provided a glimpse into Uzbekistan's rich culture and heritage, encouraging attendees to experience the country firsthand.

NA Speaker expresses grief

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Wednesday, expressed deep sorrow over flood devastation across the country, extended condolences to affected families, prayed for those who lost their lives in the calamity, and offered strength and solidarity in this time of national grief.

In his message, the Speaker appreciated ongoing rescue and relief efforts, commending the Pakistan Army and federal and provincial institutions for their swift response. He affirmed that flood-affected families would not be left alone in this hour of hardship.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid rich tribute to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, noting that her visits to flood-hit areas had boosted the morale of relief workers and comforted victims. He described her direct monitoring of relief operations as a “commendable strategy” ensuring timely assistance. He announced that he would soon visit areas along the River Ravi to meet victims personally. Rehabilitation of flood-affected families, he added, was a “national duty” that must be carried out with collective resolve.—APP

KS relief launches emergency aid for flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) has begun distributing emergency relief to families severely affected by recent floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Aid is being delivered across the hardest-hit districts, including Buner, Swat, Shangla, Battagram, Mansehra, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Swabi, and other impacted areas. In response to the crisis, KSRelief has allocated 10,000 Shelter NFI Kits and 10,000 Food Packages. Each Shelter Kit contains essential items such as a tent, solar panels with LED lights, two thermal blankets, plastic mats, kitchen sets, water coolers, antibacterial soap. While, each Food Package, weighing 95 kilograms, includes wheat flour, sugar, lentils, and cooking oil—carefully tailored to meet the urgent nutritional needs of flood-affected families.—DNA

SK hydropower station showcased at SCO summit

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Station, a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), was presented as a model for sustainable energy cooperation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2025 that concluded on Monday in Tianjin, China. The project was featured in a special issue by China's International Business Daily for the summit, which ran under the theme “Promoting the Shanghai Spirit: SCO in Action,” according to Gwadar Pro. Located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the SK Hydropower Station is a major energy initiative under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The plant began commercial operations in September 2024. By August 2025, the station had supplied over 2.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to Pakistan's national grid, helping to ease power shortages and support the country's clean energy goals, the report said. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif led Pakistan's delegation to the summit, which gathered leaders and officials from across Eurasia. An official with the Pakistani delegation said the project's inclusion at the summit underscored the country's role in promoting regional connectivity and green development. Beyond power generation, the project has supported local community and environmental programs, including the planting of more than 150,000 trees, the construction of a trout hatchery, scholarships for local students, and upgrades to road infrastructure like the N15 highway realignment. The project has also provided relief aid to nearby communities during natural disasters. Analysts noted that the SK project illustrates how large-scale regional investments can align with local development objectives. At the summit, participants stressed that such projects could serve as a model for other SCO member states attempting to balance energy security with environmental sustainability, according to a statement from the organizers.—DNA

Silk routes revival vital for Pak, Central Asian transit trade

ISLAMABAD: The revival of the Silk Route's legacy is significant for increasing Pakistan's and Central Asian Republics' (CARs) transit trade and bilateral economic ties, as well as for enhancing economic and trade relations with CARs. Strengthening transit trade and infrastructure could revive the Silk Road legacy and promote economic integration based on shared cultural, historical, and religious affinities. Pakistan and Central Asia transit trade is a significant opportunity with great potential, though it faces challenges primarily related to infrastructure, security, and regulatory hurdles. On the significance of economic trade relations and route importance, Pakistan serves as a critical transit hub linking Central Asian Republics (CARs) like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan to global markets via the Arabian Sea. In trade with CARs, the key trade commodities include textiles, cotton, oil, gas, and agricultural products, which dominate. The Pakistani route through Afghanistan is considered most viable due to shorter distances and lower transit costs, but it suffers

from security and political uncertainties in Afghanistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provides an alternative by connecting Central Asia through China via the Karakoram Highway, linking Pakistani ports to Kashgar and further to Central Asia under the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) between Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed transit agreements and initiated projects to enhance connectivity, including cargo and passenger train services. Transit through Afghanistan is complex due to political instability, security issues, and bureaucratic delays at border customs points, which discourage traders. Trade volumes remain below potential despite agreements like APTTA (Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement) and QTTA, largely due to soft infrastructure issues such as regulatory bottlenecks. Pakistan's exports to Central Asia have declined recently, while imports from these countries have surged, resulting in trade imbalances. For enhancing bilateral trade ties, Visa processing and ease of movement for traders and

drivers also require improvement. Pakistan's strategic location and CPEC investments position it as a potential regional trade hub, offering Central Asia access to seaports and large South Asian markets. Pakistan's need to enhance regional cooperation could boost Pakistan's GDP by up to 1.8 % and create millions of jobs. Pakistan-Central Asia transit trade holds substantial growth potential, especially facilitated by Pakistani routes and CPEC infrastructure, but requires resolving political, security, and logistical challenges to fully capitalize on mutual benefits and regional connectivity. Meanwhile, talking to APP, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nasir Mansoor Quraishi, said regional trade is key for Pakistan's economic sustainability, and transit trade needs to be enhanced with the Central Asian States. He said that there is a need to increase the transit trade with CARs, for achieving the trade potential with regional potential, and said that the Pharmaceutical, agriculture, and tourism sectors have huge potential for increasing bilateral economic ties.—APP

Zero tolerance for violators of SPS protocols: Rana

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, has reiterated that compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations is a cardinal principle of international trade in agro-products. “These rules are not a formality; they are the lifeline of our export system, safeguarding food safety, public health, and the biosecurity of ecosystems,” the minister emphasized. “Pakistan will not allow the reckless actions of a few to jeopardize the livelihood of our farmers, the credibility of our certification system, and the hard-earned reputation of Pakistan in global markets,” he added. Meanwhile, on the directions of minister, the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), under the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, has taken robust initiatives across rice, maize, citrus, and mango sectors to ensure SPS compliance. During the current mango season 2025, several reforms were introduced, including posting of staff at exit points, engagement of reputed PSI firms, installation of CCTV cameras, back-end monitoring, mandatory and punching of vehicle numbers on phytosanitary certificates, said a press release issued by the Food Security Ministry on Wednesday. The photographic proof of staff with consignments, and reshuffling of staff to eliminate malpractice were also introduced for ensuring strict compliance. These steps reflect the government's commitment to transparency and credibility in the phytosanitary certification system. Acting under the direct instructions of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, DPP intercepted a major violation on 25th May 2025 at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. In collaboration with Pakistan Customs, three mango consignments totaling 6.2 metric tons, valued at USD 25,649, destined for Norway, were stopped due to blatant non-compliance with mandatory EU phytosanitary protocols.—DNA

China-Pakistan children's art exhibition

ISLAMABAD: A joint China-Pakistan children's painting exhibition, showcasing entries from the art competition, kicked off at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. The event commemorates the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Titled “Join hands to commemorate and paint peace together”, the exhibition showcased 300 works including paintings, calligraphy, paper-cuttings, and AI-generated art. Organized by the China-Pakistan Educational and Cultural Institute, the five-day event will later tour Punjab University to reach a wider audience. Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Pakistan's Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, emphasized the exhibition's significance in honoring historical sacrifices. “This event pays tribute to those who laid down their lives for peace, freedom and dignity,” he stated. “Through this children's painting competition, we engage the younger generation in themes of peace, friendship and unity.” Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, highlighted the shared historical legacy between the two nations. “China and Pakistan stood together in the fight against fascism and made significant contributions to world peace,” he remarked. “In today's world, it is imperative for our two countries to continue standing united and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.” The exhibition features powerful symbolic elements, including doves for peace, olive branches and vivid depictions of Chinese and Pakistani children holding hands. The event was attended by 200 guests including Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Pakistan's Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr. Shazia Sobia, member of National Assembly of Pakistan, teachers and children from both countries.—DNA

Bilawal Bhutto & Murad Shah committed to solving Tharparkar's water crisis: Saleem Baloch

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



THE arid desert region of Tharparkar, located in Sindh, has long suffered from chronic water scarcity. Against this backdrop, the Government of Sindh, under the leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, has embarked on a large-scale mission to ensure access to clean drinking water for the residents of Tharparkar. This initiative focuses on the installation, rehabilitation, and expansion of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants, along with integrated long-term water supply schemes designed to meet the region's needs for the next

three decades. Recently, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh for Public Health Engineering and Rural Development, Muhammad Saleem Baloch, along with senior government officials, visited RO plants in Mithi, Islamkot, and surrounding areas to assess progress. His visit highlighted the restoration of previously inoperative plants and reaffirmed the government's commitment to sustainable water solutions for the people of Thar. During the visit, Muhammad Saleem Baloch emphasized that the PPP has always placed public service at the heart of its mission. He reiterated that clean drinking water is not a privilege but a fundamental right, and the government is determined to provide it to every household in Sindh, particularly in marginalized areas like Tharparkar. Their vision extends beyond temporary relief, aiming instead for long-term sustainability through integrated planning, technological innovation, and robust management structures. One of the most remarkable achievements of this initiative is the rehabilitation of Asia's largest solar-powered

RO plant in Mithi, the district headquarters of Tharparkar. Harnessing solar energy—an abundant and sustainable resource in the desert—the plant operates independently of the national grid, ensuring uninterrupted service while reducing operational costs. Today, the plant supplies millions of liters of clean water daily to residents of Mithi and surrounding villages. For many families, this is the first time in their lives that clean water flows reliably into their communities. Residents have expressed overwhelming satisfaction, noting that the plant has eased their daily struggles, improved public health, and allowed children to focus on education instead of water collection. This project is more than a technological intervention—it is also a political commitment. Islamkot, a hub of coal mining and energy development, has witnessed rapid economic change in recent years, and reliable water supply is crucial for its growth. For years, many RO plants in Tharparkar fell into disrepair due to technical faults, poor maintenance, and weak management. This created deep frustration among

residents, who saw expensive plants standing idle while they continued to suffer from thirst. Now, under the supervision of the Public Health Engineering Department and the leadership of Saleem Baloch, a

massive repair and rehabilitation drive has been launched. During his visit, Baloch confirmed that plants closed for nearly seven years have been repaired and made operational again. Communities, once dis-



heartened, are celebrating the return of water as a restoration of hope. Beyond short-term repairs, the Sindh government has begun integrated water supply planning for the next 30 years. Officials describe it as a potential game-changer for Tharparkar, capable of transforming social and economic life in the desert. Saleem Baloch's visits to Mithi and Islamkot were accompanied by a high-level team of officials, reflecting the government's emphasis on institutional coordination. The delegation included: Sohail Qureshi, Secretary Public Health Engineering and Rural Development; Sikandar Memon, Director General, Ultrafiltration Plant, Sibghatullah Bhutto, Project Director PMU, Shamsuddin Sheikh, Chief Engineer, Shaheed Benazirabad, Liaquat Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar, Muhammad Farrukh Khan, Executive Engineer, PHED O&M Mithi. Together, they inspected facilities, reviewed technical progress, and engaged with local communities.

Their satisfaction with the functioning plants demonstrated that the system is moving toward greater accountability and efficiency. Perhaps the most powerful testimony comes from

the people of Thar themselves. After years of broken promises and idle infrastructure, the sight of running taps and full water tanks has brought genuine relief. Residents expressed happiness and gratitude, emphasizing that reliable water has reduced the burden on women and children, improved livestock health, and restored dignity to daily life. The Sindh government's mission to provide clean drinking water to Tharparkar is not just an infrastructural project—it is a lifeline for millions. Through Asia's largest solar RO plant in Mithi, the upcoming Islamkot facility, the rehabilitation of closed plants, and long-term supply schemes, the government has taken historic steps toward water security. As Special Assistant Muhammad Saleem Baloch affirmed, this mission is part of the PPP's broader vision of public service and social justice. For the people of Thar, clean water is no longer a distant dream but an emerging reality. The coming years will test the sustainability of these initiatives, but for now, the sound of clean water flowing through taps has become a symbol of hope—hope that a desert long defined by thirst can finally move toward a future of dignity, health, and opportunity.

A new bloc emerges from Beijing’s power display

IN a powerful and meticulously orchestrated display of military might, China recently hosted its largest-ever military parade, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. While ostensibly a historical commemoration, the event was widely interpreted as a vivid statement of China’s rising global influence and a direct message to the West. The most significant aspect of the parade was not the tanks and missiles, but the unprecedented gathering of key world leaders, particularly Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who stood alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping. This visible alignment of nations facing sanctions or geopolitical friction with the United States and its allies suggests the possible formation of a new and formidable global bloc. The parade was a potent showcase of advanced military technology, much of it never before publicly revealed. Among the new armaments were hypersonic missiles designed to neutralize naval carriers, stealth drones, and a new generation of nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles. The display was a clear signal that China has developed a conventional and nuclear force capable of operating across all domains. For the United States, which relies on its naval power to project influence in the Western Pacific, this new weaponry represents a direct and tangible threat to its strategic dominance. Analysts noted that the parade was less about demonstrating new capabilities and more about sending a clear, strategic message: China is a great nation that “is never intimidated by any bullies,” as Xi Jinping put it, and its military is “unstoppable.” The presence of Putin, Kim Jong Un, and the Iranian President was arguably the most significant political statement of the event. While their respective nations have long pursued individual agendas, their joint appearance in Beijing cemented a visible alignment against the U.S.-led global order. This is a stark contrast to the notable absence of leaders from major Western powers, who largely boycotted the event. The gathering underscored a growing cohesion among countries seeking to challenge Western influence and create a more multipolar world. The event also highlighted the deepening military cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang, with North Korea reportedly providing troops and ammunition to Russia in exchange for economic and military assistance. The parade in Beijing was not just a show of force but a coming-out party for an emerging anti-Western coalition. The shared platform among these leaders, coupled with the reveal of cutting-edge weaponry, sends a clear message to America and its allies that the geopolitical balance is changing. As these nations strengthen their economic and military ties, the prospect of a new Cold War dynamic becomes not just a hypothetical scenario, but a tangible reality that the world must now confront. While the parade showcased China’s growing military prowess on the world stage, its diplomatic significance was equally striking. The presence of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a close ally, sent a clear message to New Delhi that Beijing’s support for Islamabad remains steadfast and unwavering.

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BRICS and its role in global development

THE BRICS alliance—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—was formed with the vision of creating a multipolar world order and offering an alternative to Western-dominated financial and political institutions. Over the years, BRICS has emerged as a powerful platform for economic cooperation, political dialogue, and South-South collaboration. Together, its member nations represent more than 40% of the world’s population and nearly a quarter of global GDP. As such, BRICS plays a pivotal role in shaping the direction of global development. In this context, recent rumors suggesting that India may be excluded from BRICS raise serious concerns. Though unconfirmed and possibly speculative, such reports have sparked significant debate about the unity, future, and geopolitical balance of the alliance. India’s potential exclusion—or even the suggestion of it—could destabilize the core purpose of BRICS and undermine the very foundations upon which it was built. India, with its large economy, youthful population, and expanding technological and industrial base, has been a cornerstone of the BRICS bloc. It brings strategic balance, especially in a grouping where China and Russia have increasingly deepened bilateral ties that sometimes run counter to Indian interests. India’s presence provides ideological diversity and a critical voice representing democratic values within the group. Removing or sidelining India would not only harm the alliance’s credibility but could also shift it dangerously toward a one-sided geopolitical alignment, particularly tilted toward Chinese and Russian influence. BRICS has made significant strides in recent years. The establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB), aimed at financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects in member countries and beyond, is a testament to the alliance’s potential. The group has also been advocating for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations, World Bank, and IMF, calling for greater representation of the developing world. With emerging economies facing increasing economic and geopolitical pressures, BRICS serves as a vital platform to advocate collective interests and ensure a more equitable global governance structure. The idea of excluding India—if indeed being considered—would not only weaken BRICS internally but also send a negative message to other developing nations that have been looking to the bloc as a symbol of inclusive global partnership. It could also damage regional cooperation in Asia, where India plays a central role, and undermine joint efforts on issues like climate change, counter-terrorism, and digital development. Rather than fragmentation, BRICS should focus on expansion and strengthening cooperation among existing members. New potential entrants like Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and others are showing interest in joining. This indicates global trust in the platform’s relevance and potential. The current members, particularly China and Russia, must work to preserve unity and transparency within the group.

Superpowers That Profess Peace but Endanger the Globe

Qamar Bashir



China and Russia, positioned as counterweights to Western dominance, are no less invested in the economics of militarization. China, under the banner of “peaceful modernization,” has emerged as the third-largest weapons producer, with companies like AVIC, Norinco, and CETC collectively earning over \$57 billion annually. It has developed cutting-edge systems, including the J-20 stealth fighter, hypersonic missiles, and naval destroyers, strengthening its position across the Asia-Pacific. At the same time, US ’ creation of an expansive ring of missile defense systems stretching across...

IN a world where powerful nations proudly proclaim themselves as guardians of peace, human rights, and prosperity, humanity finds itself facing a bitter irony. The very countries that claim to champion democracy and protect innocent lives are also the largest producers and exporters of weapons of mass destruction. They present themselves as leaders of a compassionate, progressive, and peaceful global order, yet their economies thrive on creating machines of death that fuel wars, destabilize regions, and leave millions of innocent civilians suffering. The United States sits atop this paradox, projecting itself as the ultimate protector of human rights, democracy, and freedom, while simultaneously leading the world in arms production. American defense giants like Lockheed Martin, RTX (Raytheon Technologies), Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and General Dynamics dominate the global weapons market, generating defense revenues exceeding \$246 billion annually. These corporations design and build technologies so advanced and lethal that they could destroy the world many times over. More troubling is the reality that the survival of these companies, and the jobs and profits they sustain, depends on perpetual conflict. The more wars there are, the greater the demand for their weapons, and the greater the growth of their revenues and influence. In 2024, the United States alone accounted for 43% of the world’s total arms exports, while global military spending crossed an unprecedented \$2.44 trillion. Following closely behind, the United Kingdom proudly claims the mantle of being a defender of global rights and humanitarian values, yet its defense sector plays an equally significant role in perpetuating conflicts. Its leading defense contractor, BAE Systems, ranks among the top global arms manufacturers, earning nearly \$30 billion annually from the production of fighter jets, warships, and missile systems that find their way into war-torn regions. While London speaks of upholding peace and protecting civilians, its weapons often contribute directly to the destruction of those very lives. China and Russia, positioned as counterweights to Western dominance, are no less invested in the economics of militarization. China, under the banner of “peaceful modernization,” has emerged as the third-largest weapons producer, with companies like AVIC, Norinco, and CETC collectively earning over \$57 billion annually. It has developed cutting-edge systems, including the J-20 stealth fighter, hypersonic missiles, and naval destroyers, strengthening its position across the Asia-Pacific. At the same time, the United States’ creation of an expansive ring of missile defense systems stretching across the South China Sea, Japan, and the Asia-Pacific has created a dangerous tinderbox where even a minor miscalculation could ignite a devastating conflict. Russia, through its state-owned conglomerate Rostec, generates over \$21 billion annually by producing S-400 missile defense systems, Su-35 fighter jets, attack helicopters, and artillery

systems, supplying weapons not only for its own military operations but also to proxy nations aligned with Moscow’s interests. In Ukraine, Russian-made weapons and Western-supplied arms clash daily, turning the country into a laboratory of destruction where innocent civilians suffer the consequences of great-power rivalry. Amid these competing superpowers, Israel presents yet another paradox. While accusing other nations, particularly Iran, of pursuing weapons of mass destruction, Israel itself is a major arms exporter and maintains one of the most advanced nuclear and missile capabilities in the world. Its defense firms collectively generate over \$12 billion annually, developing cutting-edge drones, anti-missile systems, and precision-guided munitions. Many of these technologies are exported to regions already embroiled in conflict, while others are deployed directly in Gaza and the West Bank, where their usage has caused devastating civilian casualties. Israel’s defense industry has positioned the country as both a buyer and seller of destruction, all while claiming to act solely in the name of security and self-defense. This is the grim irony of our time: the countries that boast of being peacemakers and champions of human rights are also the largest merchants of war. Their economies are heavily tied to weapons production, creating a vicious cycle where economic prosperity depends on sustaining conflict. A single corporation like Lockheed Martin earns more annually than the combined GDP of many low-income nations. Instead of directing resources toward alleviating poverty, combating climate change, and advancing healthcare and education, the global powers pour trillions into developing weapons capable of wiping out humanity. The consequences of this relentless militarization are profound. As these powerful nations produce increasingly destructive weapons, they make the world less stable, less safe, and less humane. Wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, Kashmir, and the South China Sea are not isolated tragedies—they are symptoms of a deeper sickness in a world where power, greed, and profit dictate global priorities. Civilians pay the ultimate price, as bombs flatten their homes, missiles kill their children, and entire generations grow up amid rubble and trauma. Every year, thousands of innocent men, women, and children are killed or maimed, not because they started wars, but because they are caught between powers competing for influence and dominance. What makes this tragedy even more alarming is that the very powers manufacturing these weapons cannot escape the chaos they unleash. History has repeatedly shown that destruction spreads. A world destabilized by endless wars, fueled by weapons flowing across borders, eventually threatens the prosperity, security, and stability of the nations that created this vicious cycle. The illusion that they can remain islands of peace and prosperity while exporting destruction is fading. No society is immune to the blowback of perpetual conflict.

The rise of smaller players in the global arms trade further intensifies this dangerous dynamic. Countries like Turkey, once peripheral in weapons manufacturing, now have six firms ranked among the world’s top 100 arms producers, supplying drones, artillery, and combat vehicles used in conflicts stretching from Libya to the Caucasus. Israel, too, stands at the forefront of the military-industrial race, while increasingly volatile regions like the Middle East have become testing grounds for deadly technologies designed and exported by these so-called peacemakers. The earth itself, a fragile blue dot in the vastness of the universe, sustains life only because of rare, delicate conditions that allow us to exist. Yet, in the race for military dominance and profit, humanity edges closer to undermining the very survival of this planet. Every year, advances in weapons technology push us further toward the precipice, while diplomacy and cooperation take a back seat to greed and power politics. If we continue down this path, the destruction these nations sow abroad will inevitably circle back, consuming the prosperity and security they seek to protect. It does not have to be this way. The trillions spent on creating weapons of mass destruction could instead be invested in eliminating poverty, improving education, expanding healthcare, and combating climate change. Innovation and technology can uplift humanity rather than destroy it. But this requires leadership—true leadership—not the hypocrisy of nations that preach peace while building instruments of death. It requires recognizing that peace cannot be manufactured by fueling conflict, that real security lies not in amassing weapons, but in building trust, cooperation, and fairness among nations. The nations that pride themselves on being the architects of a just and peaceful global order must confront the uncomfortable truth: as long as their economies depend on producing tools of destruction, genuine peace will remain out of reach. The business of war has made the world less safe, less fair, and less hopeful. And unless humanity takes a collective stand to break this cycle, we may find ourselves on a path from which there is no return. This is the lesson history has taught us time and again, yet we forget it with dangerous consistency. If the powers that dominate today do not change course, they too will face the same destruction they unleash upon others. It is time to choose a different path—one that values life over profit, compassion over greed, and cooperation over conflict. The survival of humanity depends on our willingness to dismantle the engines of destruction we have built and embrace the possibility of creating a world where peace is more than a slogan; it is a reality.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
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Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

Gaza famine is a time bomb

Hani Hazaimeh

The most immediate risk lies in the potential for mass displacement. Gaza’s population of more than 2 million people has been effectively trapped within an open-air prison. If famine continues to deepen and if Israeli military operations expand, the likelihood of a forced mass exodus increases dramatically. Egypt, already grappling with economic challenges, would face unbearable pressure should Palestinians be pushed toward the Sinai Peninsula. Jordan, with its own delicate demographic and political balance, cannot absorb another wave...

THE unfolding famine in Gaza has been framed almost exclusively as a humanitarian catastrophe, a moral test for the international community and a devastating chapter in the long saga of Palestinian suffering. But to reduce it merely to a tragedy contained within Gaza’s besieged borders is to miss the broader picture. What Israel is enacting through deliberate starvation policies is not only a war crime under international law, but also the seed of a looming Arab security crisis. The reverberations of Gaza’s famine will extend far beyond its borders, threatening to destabilize Jordan, Egypt and the wider Arab world in ways that the region cannot afford to ignore. For months, Israel has maintained an ironclad blockade, restricting food, water, medicine and other essentials from entering Gaza. This is not collateral damage or the byproduct of war, it is a calculated policy aimed at breaking the will of a civilian population. Children are malnourished, hospitals are collapsing and families are surviving on little more than animal feed. International aid convoys have been consistently blocked and humanitarian appeals repeatedly disregarded. This has created a famine in real time, visible to the world through harrowing images and testimonies. But what Israel sees as a tool to weaken Hamas has far wider implications, particularly for the stability of neighboring Arab states. The most immediate risk lies in the potential for mass displacement. Gaza’s population of more than 2 million people has been effectively trapped within an open-air prison. If famine continues to deepen and if Israeli military operations expand, the likelihood of a forced mass exodus increases dramatically. Egypt, already grappling with economic challenges, would face unbearable pressure should Palestinians be pushed toward the Sinai Peninsula. Jordan, with its own delicate demographic and political balance, cannot absorb

another wave of refugees without inflaming tensions at home. The Arab world knows well from history that refugee crises do not remain temporary; they reshape the politics, security and stability of host countries for decades. What Israel sees as a tool to weaken Hamas has far wider implications, particularly for the stability of neighboring Arab states But the refugee threat is only one layer of the problem. Famine is a radicalizing force. A generation of young Palestinians growing up under starvation, siege and the complete absence of hope will not emerge as passive victims. They will carry the scars of hunger and humiliation into adulthood, fueling militancy and creating fertile ground for extremist ideologies. For Arab states that have long sought to prevent the spread of radicalization within their borders, this is an uncontrollable wildfire waiting to spread. Israel’s actions may weaken Hamas in the short term, but they will almost certainly create a more fragmented, more desperate and more volatile set of actors within Palestinian society – actors whose rage will not be contained by Gaza’s walls. Moreover, famine erodes the very idea of international order in the region. The Arab world has long relied, however uneasily, on international law, humanitarian conventions and multilateral institutions to protect Palestinian rights. Yet what Gaza demonstrates is that Israel can impose starvation with impunity, shielded by US vetoes at the UN and Western silence. This collapse of accountability sends a dangerous message: that brute force and collective punishment are permissible tools of statecraft. If this precedent holds, what is to stop similar tactics from being used elsewhere? Arab states must recognize that the normalization of famine as a weapon sets a precedent that threatens their own security in future conflicts. The question is not whether the consequences will spill over but how quickly and how

destructively they will do so From a strategic perspective, Israel’s starvation policy is shortsighted even on its own terms. Starving Gaza into submission will not bring long-term peace or security for Israelis. Instead, it will destabilize the region, create new fronts of conflict and deepen Israel’s isolation. For Arab states, the danger lies not only in responding to the immediate humanitarian disaster but also in preparing for the ripple effects – waves of refugees, militant radicalization, political upheaval and the erosion of international norms. The famine in Gaza is therefore not just a Palestinian tragedy, it is a mirror reflecting the vulnerabilities of the Arab world itself. It challenges Arab governments to confront a stark reality: that their security is inseparable from the fate of Palestinians. To view Gaza’s starvation as a contained crisis is to indulge in a dangerous illusion. In truth, it is a time bomb ticking at the heart of Arab security. The question is not whether the consequences will spill over but how quickly and how destructively they will do so. The Arab response must go beyond charity and humanitarian aid. It requires a unified political stance that treats Gaza’s famine not only as a moral outrage but as a direct national security threat. Failure to act decisively will leave Arab states scrambling to manage the fallout of a crisis that could have been confronted at its root. History will not forgive hesitation in the face of starvation. Gaza’s famine is a deliberate act of war and its consequences will not stop at the Erez or Rafah crossings. They will reverberate through several Arab capitals and beyond. For the Arab world, the choice is stark: act now to confront this policy of starvation or face the unraveling of regional stability for years to come.

– Hani Hazaimeh is a senior editor based in Amman. X: @hanihazaimeh

Briefs

India issues yet another flood alert

FROM PAGE 01
FFD also forecasted that monsoon rains are likely to lessen within the next 24 hours. Meanwhile, NDMA warns of water from occupied Kashmir, Indian mainland entering Pakistan. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has warned of floodwater from the Indian mainland and occupied Kashmir flowing rapidly towards Pakistan. "The upper catchments of the Sutlej are in Himachal Pradesh, in India. In this area, there are two dams which were filled prematurely due to high temperatures," an NDMA staffer said during a televised briefing. "Free-flooded water has flowed into the Beas and Sutlej rivers. The flow is over 100,000 cusecs along the Beas," the briefing added. "There is a flow of 50,000-80,000 cusecs in the Beas heading towards Pakistan. "At the hydraulic structure in Harike, there is a flow of 300,000 cusecs. Water from here flows to Kasur and reaches Ganda Singh Wala," the briefing added. "There is an exceptionally high flood in Ganda Singh Wala and a high flood in Sulemanki, which is why there is flooding in Pakpattan and Vehari." The NDMA added that there has been unusually heavy rain and high temperatures in the upper catchments of the Ravi River, which are in occupied Kashmir. The dams have filled and a free-flow flood of 100,000 cusecs is headed for Pakistan, the briefing stated. "We are also expecting that on September 4, water from the Sutlej, Chenab, Ravi and Jhelum will gather at Panjnad, which is the region of Bahawalpur, Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh." Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has pledged that her government would not just provide "temporary relief" to those impacted by the floods but also make efforts to "rebuild the affected families to stand back on sustainable foundations through rehabilitation and health facilities".

Death toll from suicide blast at BNP rally...

FROM PAGE 01
wounded to Karachi if needed, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have issued strong condemnations over the terror attack targeting a political gathering of the Balochistan National Party (BNP). Expressing grief and solidarity with the bereaved families, President Zardari directed relevant institutions to launch a comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice. The president also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured and issued directives to concerned officials to provide them with the best possible medical treatment. PM Shehbaz, as per the statement issued from the PM's Office, also condemned the attack in the strongest terms and expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the loss of precious lives. The PM characterised the assault on the political rally as "damning evidence of the nefarious conspiracy by terrorists to spread chaos in Balochistan". He asserted that "terrorists are the enemies of peace and development in Balochistan". "We will continue the war against terrorism until the complete eradication of this menace," the premier stressed, adding that He further stated that attacks on innocent and unarmed citizens are "cowardly and condemnable". Separately, a case has been registered against unidentified individuals over the suicide attack featuring murder, attempted murder and anti-terrorism provisions, said a spokesperson of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD). "The remains of the suicide bomber have been taken into custody and will be sent for forensic analysis," the spokesperson added. The latest terror incident comes against the backdrop of increased attacks particularly in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Afghanistan beat Pakistan in tri-series thrilling match

Afghanistan Stun Pakistan by 18 Runs in T20I Tri-Series Clash at Sharjah Stadium

SPORT DESK

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan beat Pakistan by 18 runs in the fourth T20I of the tri-series at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on late Tuesday. This was Pakistan's first defeat in the tournament, after winning their opening two fixtures. Opting to bat first, Afghanistan lost opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz (8 off 10 balls, 1x6) early, with Hasan Nawaz taking a fine catch off the bowling of Saim Ayub. Ibrahim Zadran (65, 45b, 8x4s, 1x6) and Sediqullah Atal (64, 45b, 3x4s, 3x6s) then piled up 113 runs for the second wicket before the latter fell prey to Faheem Ashraf's slower one as the scoreboard read 123-2 in the 16th over. Faheem continued to disrupt Afghanistan's progress when he dismissed Azmatullah Omarzai (4) and Ibrahim in the space of three balls in the 18th over of the innings. Rashid Khan's solitary six in the final over lifted Afghanistan to 169-5 in their quota of 20 overs. Faheem was the pick of the bowlers with 4-27 in his four overs. In pursuit of 170, Pakistan were dealt with an early blow as Fazalhaq Farooqi dismissed Saim Ayub for no score in the second over. Farooqi maintained his fine form as he dismissed Sahibzada Farhan (18, 13b, 1x4, 2x6s) in



the third over, leaving Pakistan 29-2. Fakhar Zaman (25, 18b, 3x4s, 1x6) and skipper Salman Ali Agha (20, 15b, 1x4, 1x6) then steadied the ship as they lifted Pakistan to 52-2 at the end of the powerplay, however Mohammad Nabi removed Fakhar in the eighth over, while Agha was run out in the ninth, with Pakistan struggling on 67-4 in 8.3 overs. Wickets of Hasan Nawaz (9) and Mohammad Harris (1) in 11th and 12th overs proved costly as green shirts never got a chance to build the required momentum for the chase. A record unbeaten 40-run partnership for the last wicket and Harris' career-best 34 not out comprising of four sixes proved a little too late as Pakistan ended their innings on 151-9. For Afghanistan, Nabi (2-20), skipper Rashid Khan (2-30) and Noor Ahmed (2-20) shared six wickets between them, while Farooqi returned figures of 3-0-21-2. Pakistan will now take on UAE in their final group-stage fixture of the tournament on Thursday, 4 September at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The first ball of the match will be bowled at 7pm local time. Scores in brief: Afghanistan 169-5, 20 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 65, Sediqullah Atal 64; Faheem Ashraf 4-27, Saim Ayub 1-18). Pakistan 151-9, 20 overs (Harris Rauf 34 not out, Fakhar Zaman 25, Salman Ali Agha 20; Mohammad Nabi 2-20, Noor Ahmed 2-20, Fazalhaq Farooqi 2-21).

European heavyweights belatedly begin World Cup qualifying

European Powerhouses Begin 2026 World Cup Qualifiers as Spain, France, Germany Eye Glory

PARIS: With the next World Cup kicking off in just over nine months, European champions Spain and some of the continent's other heavyweights finally begin their qualifying campaigns this week. France, Germany and Portugal are also only just embarking on the journey which they expect will take them to the tournament in North America. The state of play in Europe is in stark contrast to elsewhere. World Cup holders Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador have already qualified from South America, where the campaign is almost complete. Meanwhile, six spots have been secured in Asian qualifying. Europe has 16 qualifying

berths, a third of the total for the first-ever 48-team World Cup. All 12 group winners will go through, with four more spots available in play-offs. Spain, second only to Argentina in the world rankings, are coming off the back of losing June's UEFA Nations League final on penalties to Portugal. La Roja start their qualifying bid with a trip to Bulgaria before a tough fixture in Turkey. A team led by Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, and with Manchester City's Rodri back after a serious knee injury, is being touted as one of the favourites to win the World Cup. But coach Luis de la Fuente – whose team also face Kh-

vicha Kvaratskhelia's Georgia in Group E – is being prudent. "This is a qualifying campaign and it is very difficult," De la Fuente insisted. "Italy have missed two World Cups recently. There are a lot of steps to take before getting near the final. Let's focus on getting there and get the job done." France have reached the last two World Cup finals, winning the trophy in 2018 before losing on penalties in 2022. All the talk is of Les Bleus seeking to finish on a high before coach Didier Deschamps walks away to end a 14-year reign. Deschamps was part of the France team that failed to qualify for the last World Cup in the USA, in 1994,

but the current generation should have more than enough to top a group featuring Ukraine, Iceland and Azerbaijan. "Qualifying for the World Cup has never been a formality. It can be ruthless and unforgiving at the highest level," said Deschamps, who has handed a first call-up to new Liverpool signing Hugo Ekitike. Portugal should have been on a high after winning the Nations League but a double-header away to Armenia and Hungary will be their first games since the tragic death of Diogo Jota in July. "We want to honour his memory every day," said coach Roberto Martinez. – Agencies

Hat-trick hero Joao Felix quickly settling in at Al-Nassr, on and off the pitch

RIYADH: New Al-Nassr star Joao Felix last week got off to a flying start in the Roshn Saudi League with an emphatic hat-trick on his league debut for the club. The Riyadh side emerged with a thumping 5-0 victory in their opening game of the season against Al-Taawoun to sit at the top of the table. The Portuguese international, signed from Chelsea this summer, is enjoying a busy start to life in the Kingdom, as new-look Al Nassr began their campaign with a statement win under new boss Jorge Jesus on Friday. Speaking on his move to the RSL, the 25-year-old said he was attracted not only by playing alongside fellow Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo, but also the challenge that awaits this season in Saudi Arabia. "I feel that this league is increasing (in quality) a lot," Felix said. "Every year, more and more players are coming to play here. The project here at Al-Nassr is good and exciting. Of course, I want to help the team and the club as much as I can, by scoring goals, giving assists and helping us win games. The most important thing is I want to help us win titles." On linking up with his international captain in Riyadh, he said: "You can see he is building here, doing his part to grow something. He was one of the first to speak with me about coming here and when he spoke to me, it was a great moment and feeling so that helped to convince me." After making his official debut for the club in Hong Kong in the Saudi Super Cup, Felix has already experienced the strong competition he was expecting. "We played against Al-Ahli and Al-Ittihad in the Super Cup. What I can say is the truth is they have amazing players, good coaches. They're well organized, play good football. Those matches were very difficult." – Agencies

President, PM condemn deadly blast at Quetta...

FROM PAGE 01
which targeted a political gathering of the Balochistan National Party. President Asif Ali Zardari vehemently condemned the blast, said a statement from the Presidency, adding he directed the relevant institutions to launch a comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice. The President expressed his profound grief and solidarity with the families of those who lost their lives in the attack, offering his heartfelt condolences. He also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured and issued directives to concerned officials to provide them with the best possible medical treatment. In a separate statement issued from the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who is currently on an official visit to Beijing, also condemned the attack in the strongest terms. The PM expressed his deep sorrow and anguish over the loss of precious lives. The Prime Minister characterized the assault on the political rally as "damning evidence of the nefarious conspiracy by terrorists to spread chaos in Balochistan". He asserted that "terrorists are the enemies of peace and development in Balochistan".

US envoy hails Shehbaz govt economic reforms

FROM PAGE 01
US investment, including critical minerals, information and communications technology, agriculture, energy, and infrastructure development. These areas, she explained, align with both Pakistan's economic priorities and the potential for U.S. businesses to contribute to the country's long-term stability and growth. The discussion also touched upon Pakistan's competitive labor costs and strategic location, further solidifying its appeal as an investment destination. Concluding her address, Baker encouraged American businesses to leverage the expertise of the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service team in Pakistan. She emphasized the importance of forging strong partnerships with Pakistani counterparts to build mutually beneficial ventures. "Let's use this moment to build profitable ventures for U.S. companies and investors, contribute to economic prosperity for both our nations, and deepen bilateral ties," she said, encapsulating the potential for a new era of enhanced commercial cooperation and shared growth.

PM directs to replicate China...

FROM PAGE 01
During the tour of the hospital, he reviewed the facilities being provided at Anzhen Hospital, and appreciated the effective system, modern technology and efficient services being provided there. The prime minister was briefed about the available health facilities, robotic systems for better administration and other hi-tech facilities. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and federal ministers Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb and Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

ATC grants bail to Imran...

FROM PAGE 01
Aleema Khan – in the Jinnah House attack case. He was arrested on August 21. The May 9 riots broke out across the country following the arrest of the PTI founder in a corruption case in 2023. The violence included attacks on military and state installations, with the Jinnah House incident becoming one of the most high-profile cases. At the outset of today's hearing, Shahrez's counsel argued that allegations of inciting PTI workers had been leveled against his client, but the prosecution failed to produce any evidence to support the claims.

Former Pakistan cricketer slams Haris, questions 'cricketing sense'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricketer Basit Ali has strongly criticised wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Harris following Pakistan's 18-run loss to Afghanistan in the Tri-Series on Tuesday. Harris, who came in to bat at number seven, managed just one run from four deliveries before falling to veteran spinner Mohammad Nabi. The dismissal drew sharp remarks from Basit, who accused the young batter of playing "senseless cricket" and failing to learn from his repeated mistakes. "Harris got out to Nabi. My question is, Nabi was brought on specifically to bowl to a left-handed batter, but you still lost your wicket," Basit said on his YouTube channel. "This shows you have no cricketing sense. You're playing senseless cricket, just swinging for a six to look like a hero." He further questioned Harris's approach and suggested the team management no longer had confidence in him, pointing to his demo-



tion down the batting order.

"Heroes aren't born overnight; they're made through hard work. Harris has been given everything easily. When you're dropping from number six to number seven, it's clear the coach doesn't trust you either," Basit Ali added. Since his century against Bangladesh in June, Mohammad Harris has struggled for form, scoring

double figures only once in his last nine innings, a 15-run knock in the opening match of the ongoing series. Despite the defeat, Pakistan still top the standings with four points from three games, while Afghanistan sit second and hosts UAE remain winless at the bottom. Pakistan will next take on the UAE at the same venue on Wednesday.

Novak Djokovic sets up Alcaraz US Open Blockbuster as Sabalenka advances

Djokovic, Alcaraz Set for Semis Clash; Sabalenka Advances, Pegula Eyes Final Revenge

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic advanced to a blockbuster US Open showdown with Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday as reigning women's champion Aryna Sabalenka vaulted into the semi-finals without having to lift her racket. Djokovic snuffed out Taylor Fritz's hopes of becoming the first American man to win a Grand Slam singles title since 2003 with a 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 quarter-final victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. The win sent the 38-year-old Serbian – chasing a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam victory – into a mouthwatering semi-final against Spanish second seed Alcaraz on Friday. Djokovic clinched victory when fourth seed Fritz double-faulted on match point in the 10th game of the final set and could not hide his relief at finally emerging victorious. "In this kind of match a few points on either side decide the winner," he said. "It was an incredibly close match. It was really anybody's match." Fritz was left ruing his failure to make the most of the opportunities that came his way, converting only two of 13 points during an absorbing three-hour 24-minute battle. The American fourth seed squandered five break points in the opening set that would have made it 5-4, instead allowing Djokovic to wriggle off the hook and take a one-set lead. Then, after battling back to break Djokovic to get to 5-5 in the second, Fritz was broken immediately to surrender the initiative. Djokovic duly held to take a two-set lead, and while Fritz hit back to take the third set, the veteran Serb regrouped to wrap up victory in the next set. "I thought I was really lucky to save some crucial break points in the second set," Djokovic said. "I think for most of the sec-

ond and third sets he was the better player." Djokovic will meet Alcaraz in the last four with the 22-year-old Spaniard in blistering form. The five-time Grand Slam champion needed just one hour and 56 minutes to seal a convincing 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 defeat of Czech 20th seed Jiri Lehecka. Alcaraz has not dropped a set during a relentless march into the semi-finals and was once again in complete control against Lehecka. "I just played a really – or almost perfect match," said Alcaraz, who has won 35 of his last 36 matches since the start of the Italian Open in May. "It seems like,



OK, just two more steps to do, and let's see what happens. But yeah, I'm just feeling great and hungry to make it." In the women's draw on Tuesday, world number one and defending champion Sabalenka moved into the semi-finals after Czech quarter-final opponent Marketa Vondrousova pulled out with a knee injury. Sabalenka, bidding to become the first woman to successfully defend the US Open since Serena Williams completed a hat-trick of titles in 2014, extended sympathy to Vondrousova, the 2023 Wimbledon champion. "So sorry for Marketa after all she's been through. She has been playing amazing tennis and I know how badly this must hurt for her," said Sabalenka, who has now reached the US Open semi-finals or better for five tournaments in a row. The walkover sets up a repeat of last year's US Open final in the last four, with Sabalenka facing American fourth seed Jessica Pegula on Thursday. Pegula reached the semi-finals earlier on Tuesday after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat of unseeded Czech Barbora Krejickova. Sabalenka entered the US Open on the back of a dismal run of form that had seen her make early exits at WTA tournaments in Washington, Montreal and Cincinnati. But she has rediscovered her confidence while moving stealthily through the rounds at New York, albeit against a series of unseeded opponents. "I think I've been playing some really good tennis," Pegula said after completing a 1hr 26min victory. Pegula said she is welcoming the chance to avenge last year's final defeat to Sabalenka. "I think it would be cool to be able to get revenge, obviously," she said. – Agencies

Briefs

Thai
opposition
backs
conservative
tycoon for PM

BANGKOK: Thailand's largest opposition party gave Anutin Charnvirakul its crucial backing on Wednesday to serve as the nation's next prime minister, after the incumbent was ousted by court order last week. The People's Party "agreed to support" the conservative tycoon, party head Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut told reporters, with their 143 lawmakers likely giving him majority support in parliament. But he said their support was conditional on parliament being dissolved for fresh elections within four months "so that power can be returned to the people as soon as possible". Heir to a construction engineering fortune, Anutin previously served as deputy prime minister, interior minister and health minister - in 2022 delivering on a promise to legalise recreational cannabis. Paetongtarn Shinawatra was sacked as prime minister on Friday by Thailand's Constitutional Court after it found she had breached ethical standards during a border row with Cambodia.—APP

RCCI shines
at the global
stage

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has been acknowledged at the ongoing Global SME Summit-2025 in Davos, Switzerland, as Usman Shaukat, President RCCI is to present Pakistan's robust industrial potential before the world's top enterprises. The three day summit started from 3rd September, is focusing on small and media enterprises through interactive bilateral and multi later engagements strengthening business to business bonds among the participants. In an exclusive brief interaction with media, Usman highlighted his aims to represent Pakistan at the summit, where he will deliver a presentation and address to portray the country's potential as a 'lucrative investment destination'.

"Pakistan is open for business," he said, emphasizing the country's diverse sectors, including manufacturing and services. Usman, in his address at the global economic stage will showcase Pakistan's economic outlook, the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), and the government's efforts to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

"From Rawalpindi's pharmaceuticals and IT clusters to Sialkot's surgical and sports industries, and Gujarat's fan and ceramic sectors, Pakistan's SME sector is the backbone of our economy," usman said when asked the key features of Pakistan's production domain.—APP

PSX continues
with bullish
trend

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 1,226.39 more points, a positive change of 0.81 percent, closing at 152,201.88 points against 150,975.48 points last trading day.

A total of 1,043,232,122 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,081,077,703 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 51.308 billion against Rs 44.424 billion on the last trading day. As many as 477 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 242 of them recorded gains and 204 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Pace (Pak) Limited with 89,287,134 shares at Rs 6.95 per share, Fauji Foods Limited with 73,360,809 shares at Rs18.15 per share and Bank of Punjab with 51,572,354 shares at Rs17.37 per share. Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 210.03 per share price, closing at Rs 3,999.38, whereas the runner-up was PIA Holding Company LimitedB with Rs158.30 rise in its per share price to Rs26,815.80.—APP



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the world leaders during the celebrations of 80th birthday of Anti-fascist war. – DNA

Turkmenistan ready to increase gas supplies to SCO countries

President Berdimuhamedov noted that this initiative fully coincides with Turkmenistan's conceptual vision of improving the architecture of international relations

DNA

ASHGABAT: President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, in his speech at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in the "SCO+" format in Tianjin, outlined in detail the key areas of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the SCO countries, focusing on the economy, transport, energy, industrial cooperation and the humanitarian sphere, and also expressed support for the organization's initiatives to strengthen global stability, Orient reported.

The head of state noted the importance of the SCO for continental and global processes, emphasizing: "We have great respect for the SCO, and we closely and kindly follow its activities. The creative role of the Shanghai Organization is visible in its contribution to the establishment of a fair and balanced system of the modern world order."

Particular attention in the speech was paid to the Global Governance initiative recently proposed by the Chairman of the PRC. President Berdimuhamedov noted that this initiative fully coincides with Turkmenistan's conceptual vision of improving the architecture of international relations: "This idea coincides with Turkmenistan's conceptual vision of the process of further improving the architecture of international relations, their collective management, based on the principles of equality, justice and mutual respect."

He emphasized that the SCO demonstrates principled approaches to strengthening international and regional stability, creating conditions for political and diplomatic dialogue and resolving complex issues.

In this context, President Berdimuhamedov drew attention to the consistently constructive position of the SCO on Turkmenistan's foreign policy, including the country's neutrality and international initiatives. "It would be appropriate to note that the states that are currently members of the Shanghai Organization supported and co-authored the UN General Assembly resolutions on Turkmenistan's neutrality, as well as a number of other UN decisions proposed by our country," he said, adding that on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the international recognition of Turkmenistan's neutrality, the country would be glad to see high-level delegations from all SCO states at the celebrations in Ashgabat. Serdar Berdimuhamedov especially noted that the economic sphere remains the defining vector of relations between Turkmenistan and the SCO. Among the priorities, he named transport and logistics, communications, energy, trade and industrial cooperation. "The presence of a vast resource base, a favorable geographical location, dynamic development of industry and infrastructure, accumulated experience of interaction - all this objectively contributes to economic rapprochement and joint development, the realization of joint potential," he said.

Special emphasis was placed on the trans-

port component. The President emphasized that Turkmenistan and the SCO countries could become key links in the logistics highways along the East-West and North-South lines.

"The targeted unification of efforts and potentials, the mobilization of political, diplomatic and economic resources will mean a qualitatively new stage not only in the development of our cooperation," the head of state noted.

He added that this creates conditions for the formation of an integrated geo-economic space from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic, including large and dynamically developing economic zones of Asia, Central and South Asia, Russia, the Middle and Near East.

President Berdimuhamedov drew attention to the potential of the trans-Caspian and Caspian routes. "I believe that our common task is to translate them into practical use. Caspian corridors - vertically and horizontally - are considered a real chance to radically increase the efficiency and return on our economic and production capabilities, and to fully enter world markets," he said. He also stressed the importance of a favorable political and legal climate for transport in the Caspian Sea, which opens up new opportunities for trade and economic activity in the SCO countries.

The head of state spoke in detail about the capabilities of the Turkmenbashi port, emphasizing his readiness for a practical dialogue on the use of the termi-

nal in the interests of the SCO countries. He also drew attention to the prospects for cooperation in shipbuilding: "Many SCO countries have significant production capacities and extensive experience in this area. Turkmenistan is also actively developing national shipbuilding, and I believe that partnership in this industry can bring tangible mutual benefits."

In the area of railway and automobile infrastructure, the President emphasized the importance of creating a modern, extensive network in Central Asia and neighboring regions. He noted the implementation of joint projects with partners, including the construction of railways to Afghanistan, and confirmed his readiness to submit his proposals for long-term planning and cooperation.

Serdar Berdimuhamedov also drew attention to projects in the field of communications. Turkmenistan, together with some SCO countries, is laying a fiber-optic communication line through Afghanistan to Pakistan and invites the organization to actively participate in expanding the geography and increasing the capacity of these projects.

In the energy sector, the head of state emphasized Turkmenistan's readiness to increase the volume of natural gas and electricity supplies to the SCO countries. "Today, we focus on electric power engineering and are open to discussing the practical aspects of supplies and expanding the directions and volumes," he noted.

ICCI for export facilitation Roadmap to boost global trade

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has underlined that Pakistan's economic future lies in expanding its footprint in international markets through stronger exports. It emphasized that achieving this goal requires the government to foster an enabling environment by eliminating unnecessary barriers, lowering the cost of doing business and ensuring easier access for Pakistani products and services into global markets. President ICCI Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said Pakistan holds vast potential in key sectors including textiles, IT, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods. However, exporters continue to face structural hurdles that limit competitiveness, said a press release issued here Wednesday. He urged the government to simplify export procedures, cut bureaucratic red tape, and provide consistent support for international trade promotion initiatives. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui noted that high energy tariffs, rising input costs, and complicated taxation frameworks are undermining the profitability of industries, making Pakistani exports less attractive in global markets. He stressed the urgent need for reforms that would lower production costs and create a fair playing field for exporters. Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry emphasized the importance of diversifying into non-traditional markets such as Africa, Central Asia, and Latin America while fully capitalizing on opportunities available under regional trade agreements. He also called for stronger representation of Pakistani businesses in international exhibitions and trade delegations to open new growth avenues. The ICCI leadership reaffirmed the commitment of Islamabad's business community to contribute actively towards enhancing exports and driving economic growth. It urged the government to extend robust facilitation and ensure consistency in policies so that Pakistan can secure a stronger and more sustainable presence in the global marketplace.—DNA

'At least 21,000 children disabled in Gaza war'

It said Israel should adopt specific measures for protecting children with disabilities from attacks, and implement evacuation protocols that take into account persons with disabilities. Israel should ensure disabled people are "allowed to return safely to their homes and are assisted in doing so," it added

GENEVA: At least 21,000 children in Gaza have been disabled since the war between Israel and Hamas began on October 7, 2023, a United Nations committee said Wednesday. Around 40,500 children have suffered "new war-related injuries" in the nearly two years since the war erupted, with more than half of them left disabled, said the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Reviewing the situation in the Palestinian territories, it said Israeli evacuation orders during the army's offensive in Gaza were "often inaccessible" to people with hearing or visual impairments, "rendering evacuation impossible." "Reports also described people with disabilities being forced to flee in unsafe and undignified conditions, such as crawling through sand or mud without mobility assistance," it said. Meanwhile the committee said the restrictions on humanitarian aid being brought into the Gaza Strip were disproportionately impacting the disabled. "People with disabilities faced severe disruptions in assistance, leaving many without food, clean water, or sanitation and dependent on others for survival," it said. While the private US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has four distribution points across the territory, the UN system it has largely replaced had about 400. Physical obstacles, such as war debris and the loss of mobility aids under the rubble, have further prevented people from reaching the relocated aid points. The committee said 83 percent of disabled people had lost their assistive devices, with most unable to afford alternatives such as donkey carts. It voiced concern that devices like wheelchairs, walkers, canes, splints and prosthetics were considered "dual-use items" by the Israeli authorities and were therefore not included in aid shipments. The committee called for the delivery of "massive humanitarian aid to persons with disabilities" affected by the war, while insisting that all sides needed to adopt protection measures for the disabled to prevent "further violence, harm, deaths and deprivation of rights." The committee said it had been informed of at least 157,114 people sustaining injuries, with over 25 percent at risk of life-long impairments, between October 7, 2023 and August 21 this year. It said there were "at least 21,000 children with disabilities in Gaza as a result of impairments, acquired since October 7, 2023." It said Israel should adopt specific measures for protecting children with disabilities from attacks, and implement evacuation protocols that take into account persons with disabilities. Israel should ensure disabled people are "allowed to return safely to their homes and are assisted in doing so," it added.—Agencies

Turkish commander lauds PAF's operational readiness, defence of sovereignty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation headed by General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu, Commander Turkish Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. The delegation was accorded a very warm and cordial welcome upon arrival at Air Headquarters. The meeting featured in-depth discussion on the evolving regional security environment, progress in ongoing defence collaboration and prospects of joint engagement in new domains of modern warfare. Upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to Commander Turkish Air Force. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, based on shared religious beliefs, aspirations and strategic alignment that continue

to bring both the nations closer. He underscored that the arrival of the first batch of Turkish cadets at PAF Academy Asghar Khan for training marks a significant milestone in the enduring fraternal ties between the two Air Forces. The development marks a new chapter in the existing defence

partnership between the two countries, underscoring mutual trust and the shared vision of building the next generation of air warriors. Both Commanders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation across multiple spheres, with particular emphasis on joint training,

mutual exercises and multi-domain operations.

General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu commended PAF's outstanding operational performance under the visionary leadership of the Air Chief during the recent conflict with India, lauding its state of operational readiness and resolute

defence of national sovereignty. He expressed keen interest in gaining comprehensive insight into the methodology of multi-domain warfare, drawing on the Pakistan Air Force's tested operational strategies and success in the conflict. The Turkish Air Force leadership also expressed its earnest desire in studying the operational lessons derived from the military standoff between Pakistan and India, with the aim to further strengthening its own doctrine and enhancing overall preparedness.

The visiting dignitary showed profound appreciation for the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park and lauded the indigenous capabilities developed by PAF in the realm of aerospace innovation, technological advancement and operational self-reliance. Both sides reiterated their resolve to learn from each other's experiences and move forward as a cohesive team, building on shared knowledge and operational expertise.



Azerbaijan, Brazil hold fifth round of political consultations

BAKU : An Azerbaijani delegation led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Elnur Mammadov paid a visit to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

As part of the visit, the fifth round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Brazil was held in Brasilia. The consultations were co-chaired by Deputy FM Elnur Mammadov and Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs of Brazil Maria Laura da Rocha.

The sides discussed the current state and future prospects of bilateral cooperation across political, economic, energy, transport, education, tourism, cultural and humanitarian spheres. They expressed mutual commitment to strengthening the contractual and legal framework of relations.

Maria Laura da Rocha congratulated Azerbaijan on the historic agreements reached at the Washington summit on August 8.

Deputy Minister Elnur Mammadov briefed the Brazilian side on the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace agenda, drawing attention to the closure of the OSCE Minsk Process and its structures by the OSCE Ministerial Council on September 1.

During the visit, Elnur Mammadov was received by Vice President of Brazil Geraldo Alckmin. Recalling his successful visit to Azerbaijan as head of the Brazilian delegation to COP29 last November and his meeting with President Ilham Aliyev, Alckmin emphasized the importance of expanding friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries. He also wished success to the political consultations and the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment Cooperation between the two governments, held in Brazil.

Highlighting the growing interaction within the "COP Troika" format, Alckmin praised Azerbaijan's contribution to the global climate agenda.—APP

Kazakhstan suggests developing organic production

ASTANA : In Kazakhstan-China Business Council's meeting in Beijing, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev prioritized the countries' cooperation in agro-industrial complex, Kazinform News Agency learnt from the Akorda press service. The Head of State called on Chinese partners to develop cooperation in organic and high-quality product manufacturing. He said Kazakhstan ranks sixth globally in terms of arable land and pastures and ranks among the 10 largest grain exporters. Kazakhstan exports over 10 million tons of wheat and some 2 million tons of flour annually. He stressed that China's market is of great interest to Kazakhstan. He noted our country has all the resources and potential for annual export up to 2 million tons of grain to China. Kazakhstan is also interested in the development of joint processing productions. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev hailed the Dalian Group's initiative to build a grain deep conversion enterprise in Ak-mola region and the Fufeng Group's project on corn processing in Zhambyl region to export products from China to Europe. Addressing those gathered, the Head of State invited them to collaborate in organic and high-quality livestock production.—APP

Briefs

**Afghanistan
reels from
deadly quake
with hope
for survivors
fading**

NEWS DESK / DNA

KABUL: Hope faded Wednesday of finding survivors in the rubble of homes devastated by a powerful earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, as emergency services struggled to reach remote villages and international support began to trickle in. China's embassy in Afghanistan said it had extended earthquake relief aid to the country, where the Taliban government has appealed for urgent help from the world after the disaster. A magnitude-6.0 earthquake hit the mountainous region bordering Pakistan on Sunday, leaving residents huddled in the open air for fear of powerful aftershocks and desperately trying to pull people from under flattened buildings. The earthquake killed more than 1,400 people and injured over 3,300, Taliban authorities said, making it one of the deadliest in decades to hit the impoverished country. The vast majority of the casualties were in Kunar province, with a dozen dead and hundreds hurt in nearby Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. In Kunar's Nurgal district, victims remained trapped under the rubble and were difficult to rescue, local official Ijaz Ulhaq Yaad told AFP on Wednesday.

**US strike
sinks
Venezuela
vessel,
11 killed**

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US military killed 11 people on Tuesday in a strike on a vessel from Venezuela allegedly carrying illegal narcotics, President Donald Trump said, in the first known operation since his administration's recent deployment of warships to the southern Caribbean. Trump told reporters at the White House: "We just, over the last few minutes, literally shot out a boat, a drug-carrying boat, a lot of drugs in that boat." "And there's more where that came from. We have a lot of drugs pouring into our country, coming in for a long time [...] These came out of Venezuela," Trump said. He later shared a video on his Truth Social platform that appeared to show footage from overhead drones of a speedboat at sea exploding and then on fire. "The strike resulted in 11 terrorists killed in action. No US Forces were harmed in this strike," Trump said. He added that the US military had identified the crew as members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, which the US designated a terrorist group in February.

**US experts
blast Trump
climate report**

WASHINGTON: US experts on Tuesday denounced a Trump administration climate report for reviving the tobacco-industry's tactics to sow doubt around scientific consensus. In a 440-page rebuttal, 85 scientists accused the government of relying on a handful of contrarians who drew on discredited studies, misrepresented evidence, and bypassed peer review to reach pre-determined conclusions. The administration's 150-page report, released on the Department of Energy's website in late July, was intended to support its proposal to overturn the 2009 "Endangerment Finding" – the legal basis for numerous federal regulations of greenhouse gases. "This report makes a mockery of science," said Andrew Dessler, a climate scientist at Texas A&M University and a co-author of the rebuttal. "It relies on ideas that were rejected long ago, supported by misrepresentations of the body of scientific knowledge, omissions of important facts, arm waving, anecdotes, and confirmation bias." – APP

With Putin and Kim on his side

Xi declares China 'unstoppable' at nation's largest military parade

"Today mankind is faced with the choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, win-win or zero-sum," says Chinese president

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned the world was facing a choice between peace or war as he held his country's largest-ever military parade on Wednesday, flanked by Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un. The lavish event, also attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to mark 80 years since Japan's defeat at the end of World War Two has been largely shunned by Western leaders, with Putin and Kim – pariahs in the West due to the Ukraine war and Kim's nuclear ambitions – the guests of honour. Designed to project China's military might and diplomatic clout, it also comes as US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs and volatile policymaking strain its relations with allies and rivals alike. "Today, mankind is faced with the choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, win-win or zero-sum," Xi told a crowd of more than 50,000 spectators at Tiananmen Square, adding that the Chinese people "firmly stand on the right side of history". Riding in an open-top limousine, Xi then inspected the troops and cutting-edge military equipment such as missiles, tanks and drones on display. Helicopters trailing large banners and fighter jets flew in formation above during the 70-minute showcase, thick with symbolism and propaganda, which culminated in the release of 80,000 peace doves and colourful balloons. Wearing a suit in the style of those worn by former leader Mao Zedong, Xi earlier greeted more than 20 leaders on the red carpet, including Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who made a surprise appearance despite widespread protests at home. Xi's wife, Peng Liyuan, could be



heard saying "Nice to meet you" and "Welcome to China" to several of the guests in English. Seated between Putin and Kim, Xi repeatedly initiated conversations with both leaders in the viewing gallery as troops and materiel paraded before them. "Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States of America," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, as the event kicked off. He also highlighted the US role in helping China secure its freedom from Japan. Trump had earlier told reporters he did not see the parade as a challenge to the US. Observance of this historic day not only recognises China's key role in promoting global peace and har-

mony but also reinforces the timeless values of resilience, courage, and unity against oppression, President Zardari remarked. He further added that Pakistan and China enjoy time-tested, deep-rooted relations based on respect, trust, and a common vision for peace and mutual development. Xi has cast World War Two as a major turning point in the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation", in which it overcame the humiliation of Japan's invasion to become an economic and geopolitical powerhouse. Earlier this week, Xi unveiled his vision of a new global order at a regional security summit, calling for unity against "hegemonism and power politics", a thinly veiled swipe at his rival across the Pacific Ocean. "Xi feels confident that the table has turned. It's China that is back in the driver's seat now," said Wen-Ti Sung, fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub, based in Taiwan. "It's been Trumpian unilateralism rather than China's wolf warrior diplomacy when people talk about the leading source of uncertainty in the international system," he added. Beyond the pomp, analysts are watching whether Xi, Putin and Kim may signal closer defence relations following a pact signed by Russia and North Korea in June 2024, and a similar alliance between Beijing and Pyongyang, an outcome that may alter the military calculus in the Asia-Pacific region. "The parade allows Xi to focus the world's attention on its impressive strides in modernising its military hardware, while overshadowing the stubborn challenges afflicting the PLA, most notably the continued purges rolling through the ranks of its most senior officers," said Jon Czin, a foreign policy analyst at Brookings Institution, a US-based think tank. The parade was not only aimed at projecting China's might to the outside world, but also galvanising patriotic spirit at home, analysts said.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Anzhen Hospital in Beijing on 3 September 2025. – DNA

IHC judges raise concerns over judicial anomalies

Justice Sattar, Justice Ejaz request additional points to be included in agenda of full court meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Two members of Islamabad High Court (IHC), Justice Babar Sattar and Justice Sardar Ejaz, have written to IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, questioning judicial anomalies ahead of a full court meeting. IHC Chief Justice Dogar, on Tuesday, summoned a full court meeting at the start of the new judicial year, scheduled for Wednesday. All judges of the IHC have been informed of the meeting and instructed to attend. The two IHC judges sought additional points to be included in the meeting's agenda, while highlighting concerns over case allocation, administrative decisions, and transparency within the court. The four-page letter by Justice Sattar, questions whether the judges of the IHC believe that they were fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities and whether citizens consider them protectors of fundamental rights.

"Has the IHC made efforts to establish the district judiciary as an independent institution? There is a lack of transparency in preparing rosters and fixing cases. We tell officers daily in our decisions that they are neither kings nor are their powers without limits," the letter reads. The judges express concern that senior judges are being ignored while additional judges are assigned cases. "In exercising administrative powers, should judges and the chief justice not remember that they are not kings but public officials?" he asks. The letter also criticises the refusal of the office to issue cause lists in some cases, noting that this is affecting the independence of the judiciary. Highlighting instances where rosters have deprived him and other judges of single benches and observes that senior judges have been excluded from the administrative committee in violation of rules, while additional and transfer judges have been included. Another concern raised was the mandatory requirement for judges to obtain no-objection certificates (NOCs) for travelling abroad. "It takes decades to build institutions, but it takes no time to destroy them," the letter stated. Meanwhile, the letter written by Justice Ejaz surfaced just hours ahead of the IHC full court meeting. In the letter, Justice Ejaz urged that additional points be added to the agenda of the meeting.

'Resign if you have differences with govt': Abbasi tells Kh. Asif

"You are part of the system for last 40 years which you are saying is not on right path," says railways minister

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday surprised fellow lawmakers in the National Assembly by indirectly criticising senior party colleague and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif for the speech he delivered a day earlier. Without naming Asif directly, Abba-

si advised that those in government should refrain from adopting an opposition-style tone. "You are part of the system for the last 40 years which you are saying is not on the right path," Abbasi said, adding that it did not suit a member on the treasury benches to speak like this, reported The News. The railways minister advised the defence minister to resign if he had any differences with the government. "I

also witnessed precedents in the past that if any minister had differences with government policies, he resigned but remained part of the treasury benches," he said. Abbasi advised Asif that if he could not deliver in his constituency, then he should accept the responsibility. "Do not try to discredit the hard work done by the prime minister and chief minister for the sake of going viral," he said, adding that bureaucracy is often criticised here. The MNA from Rawalpindi said that he could not understand when a treasury member says it was a hybrid system, starts abusing bureaucrats, and says there is no local government system. It is better to sit on the opposition than. "Have some fear of Allah Almighty, you are very much part of this government. This trend should come to an end," he said. Abbasi said that he would never say that he is not responsible for encroachments in Rawalpindi and other problems in the city. "I can claim that Rawalpindi city is in a much better position amid heavy rains," he said.

FPCCI delegation visits Oman

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) have pledged to enhance cooperation and promote joint investments between the private sectors of both countries. The FPCCI delegation, led by Senior Vice President Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, met with Hamood Al-Saadi, Deputy Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The delegation also included Vice President Muhammad Aman Paracha, Chairman of the FPCCI Pakistan-Oman Business Council Nadeem Mehmood Magoon, Patron of the Hajj & Umrah Association Furqan Abdul Qadir, and other members. During their visit, the delegation participated in various events and held meetings with prominent personalities. At Pakistan House in Muscat, they were accompanied by Bilal Hasan, Deputy Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, Ishrat Bhatti, Commercial Counselor, and key members of the Pakistani business community in Oman, including entrepreneurs Mian Muhammad Riaz Mumtaz, Mian Fayyaz, Syed Fayyaz Ali Shah, and Ahmed Subhani, a member of OCCI's Investment Committee. The delegation was briefed on Oman's capabilities in IT, pharmaceuticals, medical tourism, and food processing. FPCCI Vice President Aman Paracha gave a presentation on Pakistan's economic progress, investment incentives, and potential partnerships with Omani businesses. Speaking to the media, Aaman Paracha shared that high-ranking officials, diplomats, and business leaders participated in various events during the visit, creating a favorable environment for new investments. The FPCCI delegation, led by Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, also met with Hamood bin Salim Al-Saadi, OCCI's second Deputy Chairman, and H.E. Naveed Safdar Bokhari, Pakistan's Ambassador to Oman. Key sectors discussed for bilateral cooperation included food security, ICT, education, textiles, healthcare, construction, travel and tourism, automotive, import-export, sports goods, and others.

Russia to supply more S-400 missile systems to India

"India already has our S-400 system," TASS quoted Dmitry Shugayev, head of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, as saying

MOSCOW: Moscow and New Delhi are negotiating increased deliveries of Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to India, TASS news agency cited a senior Russian defence export official as saying late on Tuesday. "India already has our S-400 system," TASS quoted Dmitry Shugayev, head of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, as saying. "There is potential to expand our cooperation in this area as well. That means new deliveries. For now, we are in the negotiation stage." India signed a \$5.5 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five S-400 Triumf long-range surface-to-air missile systems, which New Delhi says it needs to counter a threat from China. But deliveries of the systems have been delayed several times. Moscow is expected to deliver units of the final two S-400 systems to India in 2026 and 2027. India's Narendra Modi told Vladimir Putin on Monday that India and Russia stood side by side even in difficult times after the Kremlin leader called the Indian PM his "dear friend" on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in China. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in remarks published on Wednesday that India did not bow to the demands by the United States to stop purchasing resources from Russia and that Moscow "appreciated" that. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Russia accounted for 36% of India's arms imports between 2020-2024, with France providing 33% and Israel 13%. – DNA

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ALL PATIENT ROOMS

AMBULANCE

PHARMACY

X-RAY

ALL PATIENT ROOMS

AMBULANCE

PHARMACY

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